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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

A paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past as a guaranty for the future. But it will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The re-election of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and progress. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

As A PAPER OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDIUM OF THE LATEST NEWS, the COMMERCIAL is widely known and appreciated. We expend annually many thousands of dollars to supply the wants of the public.

As a PAPER OF PROGRESS, it will hereafter continue to maintain its character in this respect.

As a PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERCIAL will continue to discuss men and measures with perfect freedom, and with an eye single to the public good, believing that the principles of the Republican party will thereby be best subserved.

As an INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise its own party for its own good, believing that in free discussion and the independent expression of opinion only can our institutions be preserved.

As a BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ every agency at its command to meet the wants of the public. Now that the period of party excitement has been passed, it will pay special attention to topics interesting in the counting room, the banks and marts of trade, giving prominence to Science, Art, Invention, Agriculture and Manufactures.

As a PAPER FOR THE FAMILY it will give reading calculated to instruct, improve the reading taste and improve the mind.

As a MARKET PAPER its reports will always possess a special excellence, so that the buyer and seller can at all times consult its columns for every necessary information as to prices and the spirit of the different branches of trade. Everything that is bought and sold in the Pittsburgh market and the leading markets of the country will receive careful attention, and at a large cost.

The country is about entering on a period of unexampled prosperity. The field of journalism is constantly expanding. It will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to hold a position in it along with the leading journals of the country.

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MORE MINNESOTA INCIDENTS.

A Minister, his Wife and Child Frozen to Death Within a Few Rods of his House.

[From the Winona Republican.]

Among the losses of life reported in consequence of the late terrific storm are the following: Hon. H. R. Wells, of Preston, reports the loss of a minister and family from Lime Springs, Iowa, visiting in Fillmore county. The minister, with his wife and two children, undertook to reach home, and when the home the horses gave out, and he took one child and made this way to the house, but in returning to the cutter, where he had left his wife and remaining child, he was lost, and was found the next day frozen to death. His wife and child left in the cutter were also found dead, but the one taken to the house was found alive. A man had been seen hanging around a grove in Fillmore county some days before the storm. He was out during the fearful storm of Tuesday night, but was found and taken to the county poor-farm, where both hands and feet were amputated. He gave his name as Lee, is delirious, and begs of Sheriff Martin not to kill him. He is supposed to be a criminal wanted by Sheriff Martin, of Winona county.

E. E. Payne, of Rochester, got caught in the recent terrible storm while riding in Dodge county, within a few miles of Kasson, and lay out one whole day and two nights before he could find a house. He says he passed Mr. Gaskill's before dark, expecting to make Mr. Tucker's, about a mile further south, but when about half way was overtaken by the storm that I turned to take my back track to Mr. G.'s, which I had just passed. My only guide was the wind, and that changed to west north west, without my knowledge or consent, and after wandering, perhaps an hour, I put up for the night by turning my ponies loose and my cutter up, and sat me down to rest within twenty rods of Andrew Johnson's house. There I was all night, singing, praying, and working to keep alive. At one time I struck my hands three hundred times, and another kicked my feet five hundred times. At length day dawned—but no abatement of the storm. I could not see forty rods after digging out of where I was drifted under, and could hardly stand, the wind blew so. I was afraid to leave, and returned to my snowy nest and laid me down to die, if it was God's will. For hours I stood the storm, shivering, with clothes wet and frozen. At last I repeated the verse:

"I can but perish if I go,
I am resolved to try;
For if I stay right here, I know
I shall most surely die."

A WASHINGTON letter states that a singular provision exists in the fiftieth section of the navigation act of 1799, imposing a fine to be collected by the Collector of the Port, of $400 on masters of vessels guilty of landing foreign goods without a permit, and further imposing a disability to hold any office of trust under the government for the term of seven years. The provision makes the law imperative toward masters of foreign vessels, as both penalties, it is argued, must go together. The Secretary of the Treasury has asked Congress to amend the act so as to make it applicable to foreign as well as American masters.

It is estimated that there are between two and three thousand buffalo hunters in Western Kansas, and they average about fifteen per day.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

RELATIVE PROFITS OF WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY.

In the States east of Ohio and north of Maryland, the growing of oats has, in most localities, given way to the raising of other crops, the sale of which will buy more flour than the land will produce. This is of course less the case toward the western edge of the section mentioned, and very notably increases toward the coast, where, as in Massachusetts, the annual yield of breadstuffs is only a fraction of the quantity consumed by the population. But it is somewhat surprising to find that California, with its vaunted advantages for wheat growing, should show a decided tendency in the same direction. From published statements before us it appears that the area in wheat in that State yields only an average of nineteen bushels to the acre, while barley gives thirty-five bushels, and oats forty-five bushels per acre. The cash value of the yield per acre for each of the three crops is set down respectively at $18 24, $21 84 and $26 90, from which it will be seen that barley yields in dollars nearly fifty-fifth, and oats nearly one-half more than wheat from a given average. Six-sevenths of the export of barley from California is to Peru, the Orient, British Columbia, Chili and Japan. The export of oats is chiefly to Australia, British Columbia, Japan, China, Mexico and New Zealand. These facts are suggestive not only with reference to the future of agriculture on the Pacific coast, but with regard to the probable direction of that commercial enterprise, which sooner or later must dot the South Sea with the ships and steamers of a great and varied traffic.

GENTLE WORDS TO HORSES.

The ridiculously loud tone of voice in which orders are generally given to horses when the driver desires them to start or stop, has often been a subject of surprise to me. If horses were next thing to deaf, there would be an excuse for the shoutings and yellings so generally indulged, but they are not, and therefore need not be spoken to so loudly and harshly. The ear of a horse is very sensitive, and save in exceptional cases, it is possible to control his motions by a command given in a moderate tone of voice, just as readily, and indeed I think more readily than where this rough, rude manner is used.

A horse is a teachable animal, and is always affected by kind treatment, or when of the matter is that if kind words and gentle treatment throughout were given these noble animals instead of oaths, curses and blows, we should see their docility greatly increased. Just imagine if you will, a horse or whole attended in a tone sufficiently loud to be heard half a mile distant, and this command given to an animal within five or ten feet of the party giving it. Wherein exists the necessity for it? Why not resort to more rational, and certainly more pleasing means? Why not speak in a moderate tone, such as would be required. The horse is not deaf, can hear it, and will as readily obey as if given in thundering tones.

One of the best managed teams I have ever seen was controlled by the driver without the indulgence of this unmusical yelling. The driver rarely ever spoke above his ordinary tone of voice, and yet his horses would turn their work with as much willingness, and apparently greater earnestness, than if they had been driven to it by fearful shoutings and blows. Let me appeal to the common sense of humanity, besides the dictates of mercy. The horse is an intelligent animal. None of the brute creation more readily appreciate kind words and kind treatment. Such facts should be considered by those who have the care of these animals.—*Correspondent Journal of the Farm.*

HOME-MADE YEAST.

Daisy Eyebright, in the *Country Gentleman*, recommends the following: Boil two handfuls of hops, tied in a small bag, in six quarts of water, slice thin six large potatoes and boil them with the hops; when they are soft skim them out and mash perfectly fine; add to them one pint of flour, and stir the flour stirred to a smooth batter with cold water; then pour over the whole the boiling hop liquor, first taking out the bag and squeezing it dry; then hang it aside to rise and ferment, and it will be excellent batches of yeast. Stir into this mixture two table-spoonfuls of sugar, one of ginger and one of salt. When milk-warm add a teacupful of yeast, set in a warm place to rise, and it will be ready to put into a jug by the next morning. Keep in a cool cellar or ice-house, and it will last good for six weeks or more. Always shake the jug before using. When the contents A teacupful of this yeast will make three loaves of bread and a pan of rolls.

SELLING FARM PRODUCTS.

Every man who has experience in the large markets knows the truth of what, coming from the pen of a writer in the *Independent*, is true: "The successful selling of a product depends largely upon the appearance of it when brought into the presence of the buyer. The external appearance or a farmer's dairy of butter or cheese has much to do with the price it brings. Bags of grain, barrels of fruit, vegetables, if carefully handled and clean, make a favorable impression on the buyer, and other things being equal, they bring the highest prices. The value of poultry is often diminished or lost by the slovenly manner in which it is sent to market, and so with a variety of other farm products. Inattention to little things and carelessness as to time and manner in preparing them often diminishes the amount realized below a living profit."

GROWING OUT A HOOF.

It is the universal habit to destroy a horse that has lost a hoof, and this is upon the hypothesis that the horse is lamed for life and rendered unfit for any work. We find, however, that, if allowed, nature will in time perform her own cure, and restore the missing hoof, as the following remarkable case will show, which we extract from a late number of the San Francisco *Call*:

"Yesterday we met with a horse which had his hoof torn off by the wheel of a dray on Howard street, some weeks since. The owner was advised at the time to shoot the horse, but the animal being not only valuable but a favorite, it was determined, if possible, to effect its cure, and the horse was slung for nine days, during which time it suffered most acute pain, the nature of which may be imagined in a degree by any one who has had a nail violently driven into the flesh. After this time the pain apparently abated, and the horse was lowered to his feet, the wounded foot being well preserved from any undue amount of exertion. To-day the animal is found to have grown two-thirds of its natural size, and in a proper shape, and it is hoped that by grass time the horse will be as sound as ever. The new hoof summer the hoof will be sufficiently strong to bear a shoe and allow the animal to return to work. The cure has been brought about by humane treatment and constant care. The horny matter has secreted itself in the same manner as the matter which composes our nails is secreted.

SMUT ON WHEAT PARASITICAL.

A correspondent writing from France, says that the prevalence of smut in wheat has drawn attention to that disease, and Dr. Pennetier, who has made the subject one of lifelong study, assures us it is owing to the presence of parasitical animalcule, not unlike the tiny eels that vine produces, and which exist in the smut ball, as whitish filaments. Although dress and handle the life of these worms, they immediately regain it on being plunged into water. The humidity of the soil effects the same change. When the sown grain germinates the larvæ of the diseased seed are attracted to the young plant, live on its pulpy matter, forming tumors on the stalk and leaves, and ultimately lodge in the ear. They are now in an adult state; the sexes become distinct; the female deposits her eggs—from twelve to fifteen hundred, as many thousand—and the larvæ begin the gain of wheat. The new larvæ remains in a desiccated state till the following season, and may be dried and restored to life several times with impunity.

In France, when such grain is sifted, it is roasted in an oven and given to fowls. Steeping the seed wheat in solutions of arsenic, or blue vitriol, or ammoniac salt, is a parasite effectively. Placing the seed for twenty-four hours in a solution of one part of vitriol and one hundred and fifty of water, is a favorite remedy.

DICKENS'S MEDIUM.

The Person Who is to Receive from the Ghostly Novelist the Concluding Chapters of the "Mystery of Edwin Drood."

[From the Rochester Democrat, January 23.]

We mentioned some time since a statement that a young man was engaged in the completion of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," writing as a medium, at the dictation of the spirit of Charles Dickens. The medium, we learn further, is a German printer of Brattleboro, Vermont, thirty or thirty-five years of age, intelligent, but without genius so far as his friends understand. He says he has never read a single one of the works of Mr. Dickens, much less the one in course of publication at the time of the novelist's death; yet he has reproduced some of the peculiar features of the latter, and some of his manuscript bears evidence at least of a very good imitation of Dickens' style. We have been shown letters from two prominent citizens of Brattleboro, both of them disbelievers in spiritualism, and one of them especially cautious against all manner of isms, and they appear to be very much impressed with the work of the medium as far as it has progressed. One of them remarking that parts of the manuscript are "so unmistakably Dickens's style that no one not blind with prejudice would doubt it"—and of course we are reminded that it is one thing to have Dickens's style, and another to have his own work. The medium works three evenings a week, accomplishing eight to ten pages at a sitting, and he calculates—or rather, the spirit of Mr. Dickens does —that it will take about six months to complete the *Mystery*. He began on Christmas Eve last, according to the special request of the spirit—a period, remarks the latter, "the dearest, holiest to me of all the year when on earth." We have been shown several pages of manuscript, copied from the original, including the "Dedication," the "Preface—which treats of the whys and the wherefores," &c., and, to tell the truth, are not particularly impressed with them. Some expressions are in the style of Mr. Dickens, but many more are decidedly unlike him; and the opening pages bear a striking similarity to the commonplace work of most mediums, being a gushing tribute to spiritualism and a general invitation to the cold, unbelieving world to embrace the faith.

HARRISBURG.

Debate in the House on the Bill for Removing the Restriction on the Rate of Interest—Bills Reported from Committees—Expression Against Governmental Control of Telegraph Lines.

Special to the Pittsburg Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 30, 1873.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Public Calendar.

Mr. Newmeyer called up his bill repealing any restriction on the rate of interest, explaining its purport in a few words, and advocating the bill at some length. The moral effect of bank officers being law breakers is bad. The day for limiting the price for the use of money has gone by. New York and Ohio, on each side of us, are adopting laws similar to this, and if we fail to keep even with them, they will divert from our State the capital necessary to develop her magnificent resources.

Mr. John Welch, of Philadelphia, offered an amendment limiting the rate to eight per cent.

Mr. McCormick spoke against the amendment and in favor of the bill. I hope this amendment, said he, will be voted down. Money is worth ten or twelve per cent in the market, and it ought to bring just what it is worth. There is no reason, either legal or moral, why a man should not be bound to pay what he contracts to pay. I put this on the broad ground that money is property, and the owner of it has a right to make out of it all he can. And I am opposed to putting a restriction of even twelve per cent. on loans. When a man borrows money, and contracts to pay a high rate of interest, it is to be presumed he knows what it is worth to him, and he should be bound by his contract. I am opposed to reducing the restriction under twelve per cent.

Mr. McMahon, of Franklin, opposed the bill.

Mr. Lawshe, of Clearfield, spoke in favor of the bill. Let there be no limit. Let us wipe out the present restriction. National banks in our section exact more than six per cent., and some of them get around it by compelling borrowers to leave on deposit one-half the amount, paying six per cent. on the full amount. Pass this bill and money can be borrowed direct from individuals; it will be plenty, and we can build railroads and open more coal banks, and keep up the present swell tide of prosperity to our noble old State.

Mr. Wolf, of Union, opposed the bill.

Mr. Brockway, of Columbia, interrogated him: "Do not the savings banks of Union loan their money at from twelve to fifteen per cent?"

Mr. Latta, of Westmoreland, opposed the bill. The rate of interest had remained at six per cent. for one hundred and twenty-five years. Let there be no change.

Mr. Hedges, of York, spoke in favor of the bill.

All the Allegheny delegation were in favor of it, and Messrs. McCormick and Newmeyer managed the bill with considerable tact. After it had been debated for some time they moved to postpone the further consideration until this day two weeks, when it comes up as the special order.

SENATE.

Reports of Committees.

The following bills were reported from committees:

The act regarding the sale of lumber on the Ohio river and its tributaries. It repeals all local laws in the measurement of lumber.

Act to collect moneys by decree of Orphans' Court.

Act relating to foreign insurance companies. Negatively.

Act to facilitate the settlement of estates of decendants.

Act to prevent the pasting of advertisements on walls.

Act allowing common carriers to sell goods on hand after a period of three months.

Joint resolution relative to the amendment of the Federal Constitution as to the election of President and Vice President, &c. That portion which provides for the election of United States Senators by the people was stricken out by the committee.

Bills Read.

Mr. Humphreys—Act to incorporate the Monongahela Savings Bank, with Wm. M. Lyon, Withrow Douglass, John Murray, Saml. Harper, R. W. Stephens and others as corporators; also, to allow the Woodruff Sleeping Car Company to issue bonds not exceeding $1,000,000.

Bills Passed.

To incorporate the Hoboken Real Estate Savings Bank of Pittsburgh.

Local Option.

Mr. Ruland's amendment to the local option law was again postponed.

Government Telegraphs.

Mr. Rutan called up the joint resolution instructing our Senators and requesting our members in Congress to vote against the general government operating the telegraph lines of this country. Mr. Rutan said this was no new scheme. He had always been opposed to it. The proposition originated with Postmaster General Cave Johnston, years ago, and not with the postal department, and has been revived by almost every administration since. It is evident the final struggle between the friends and opponents of the postal telegraph is at hand. Its friends desire to be heard must not long delay the expression of their views. It has been customary for State Legislatures to instruct their Senators on questions of national importance, and his opinion was that it would be respected. It will cost sixty millions to purchase the lines and about twenty-five millions annually to extend and keep them in repair. It is estimated that about one man in every thirty-three use the telegraph at all. Then why should thirty-two men be taxed in order to give the third cheap dispatches. It is a huge job, by which men who are not seeking the good of their country expect to grow rich. The strongest reason against the passage of the law is that is an assumption of power on the part of the general government not warranted in the Constitution. Once place the telegraph in the hands of the general government, and it will not be long until the same reason will place railroads and the entire carrying trade of the country under the same control. The furnaces and grist mills are thus taken out of the hands of the citizen, and the manufacturing interests of the country made dependent upon the government. In escaping the extreme doctrine of State rights, is there not danger of flying to the other extreme? If so, should we not check it before we are plunged into disasters as serious as those we have just escaped.

The resolution was passed almost unanimously.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 31, 1873.

SENATE.

Mr. Humphreys read an act to incorporate the Western Improvement Company and define its powers. He also offered a resolution calling on the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics for information as to what further legislation is necessary to make the bureau a success.

Improvement of Ohio River.

Mr. Graham offered the following resolution which was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Governors of each of the seven States bordering upon that great central highway, the Ohio river and its tributaries, have organized what is known as the Commission for the Improvement of the Ohio river and its tributaries, through the agency of the national government, which Commission has had several sessions in the West, and is again about to assemble at Washington City; and whereas, this great national highway appears to be the channel provided by Providence for the transportation of the heavier productions of the mines, manufactories, agriculture, and commerce of Pennsylvania in her intercourse with the sister States; therefore

Resolved, If the House concur, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to aid by every means in the power of the general government the permanent improvement of the navigation of the Ohio, and the Governor be requested to transmit these resolutions to our Senators and Members in Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

All the standing committees showered out the bills previously reported.

The following new bills were read:

Mr. Sample—Act act to incorporate the Pittsburgh and El Paso Silver Mining Company.

Mr. Ramsey—Act relative to the collection of license fees in Allegheny City.

Mr. McCormick—Act relating to the election of clerks of Councils of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Young—Act repealing the Jury Commissioners' act.

Mr. Newmyer—Act for the protection of miners in bituminous coal regions. This is the bill which the coal miners have requested to be presented and passed for their benefit.

Mr. Wainwright—To incorporate the Bracken Construction Company, with K. Bracken, F. Armstrong and others as corporators.

Centennial Appropriation.

Mr. Mitchell, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, reported favorably a resolution appropriating one million dollars to the Centennial. Provision is made that one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid this year, four hundred thousand next year and five hundred thousand the third year—the money all to be expended in the buildings to be erected in Fairmount Park.

Legal Holidays.

The bill regulating legal holidays includes Washington's Birthday, the Fourth of July and Christmas, together with any days the Governor or President may set aside for thanksgiving.

Both Houses adjourned till Tuesday morning.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 29, 1873.

The rush for special legislation this winter, which every one has anticipated, is not likely to be realized. The main portion of the bills presented are of the stock kind—to authorize an additional notary in Shunkville, to enable the School Directors of Swamp township to borrow money, to vacate Windmill street in the borough of Tinicum, and to confer additional powers on the city Council of Jericho. For all these things, which have to be provided for in detail, there should be general bills. One has already been provided concerning the appointment of notaries, and it would seem that the vacation of streets in cities and boroughs might as well be left to the courts as the vacation of country roads. I understand a bill to that effect will soon be introduced. But it has been found impossible to draft any general law to cover the special wants of school boards without opening the door too wide for safety; and it seems as difficult to frame a general bill to meet the wants of cities as to invent perpetual motion. Thus, while two of these sources of special legislation may be cut off, the other two must remain.

The only observable tendencies to use the present session as the last that may offer are to be found in bills to exempt certain church and other propety from taxation, and in bills to confer extraordinary banking privileges. Of the first of these not a muttle almost without number; a bill to exempt the parsonages of such and such a church from taxation, a bill to exempt an Odd Fellows' hall in like manner, a bill to give the like exemption to some charitable institution, and so on *ad infinitum*. The reason for this probably is to be found in the propositions pending in the Constitutional Convention that no property shall hereafter be made free of taxes, and the parties seeking this kind of legislation probably reason that privileges granted, now, will not be revoked by this proposed Constitutional prohibition. A similar reason doubtless prompts the hankering after banking privileges. There is a seeming conviction that these privileges will not be got so easily, if a new Constitution is adopted, and that what may be obtained prior to its adoption will be a fixed right. What course will be taken with regard to these bills is not yet clear, but the most of them will probably pass.

Yet not without scrutiny, especially as to bank bills. I think I can see enough vigilance on the part of those already enjoying banking powers to keep others from getting privileges they do not enjoy themselves. All of the bills so far sent here to charter banks and banking companies have contained a clause repealing the usury laws so far as the corporations named in them are concerned; and that has, in all of the bills so far acted on, been struck out. If the usury laws are to be repealed, or modified with at all, the repeal will be general, and not special.

With regard to the exemption of property held for religious and charitable uses from taxation, the practice of exemption has been so general, therefore, to hereafter asked for that it seems unfair to refuse it in like cases, now; and yet the whole thing is wrong. Taxation is the support of the government, and nothing, however, but a Constitutional prohibition will stop this work of exemption which has been going on for generations. As long as the Legislature has power to do it, the exemption which has been already given to St. Stephen's parsonage cannot now be denied to that of Calvary church, on the opposite side of the street.

A great many corporations formed under existing laws are also seeking additional powers. Some want to hold more land; others to issue bonds for borrowing money; some to change the method of assessing their stock; others to increase their capital stock. Some of these may be the product of the apprehension that special legislation will about be cut off; but they all bear so familiar a look as to come to about the usual number, that we may properly regard it as the natural product of our system and not of any fear of its abolition entirely.

The eagerness of these corporations to be authorized to buy more land is a subject worthy of serious thought. Mr. Humphreys called attention to it in one of his able remarks, in the Senate on Tuesday. He took the ground that there was great danger in permitting corporations to absorb possession of the soil to such an extent. The great body must be said, to get enough land in possession, especially where mining was carried on, to prevent competition, for instance, and combinations formed through different agencies. If the government has power to do the one, it has the same power to do the other. The Commission has had several sessions in the West, and is again about to assemble at Washington City; and whereas, this great national highways

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1873.

When the heavy-laden life of poor Horace Greeley was drawing toward its pathetic and tragic close, in one of his more conscious and lucid intervals he complained to an intimate and life-long friend that "the *Tribune* was going to the dogs." How keen and clear the insight of the dying philosopher was, may perhaps be inferred from *the* fact that, while New York is fairly seething with indignant excitement over the acquittal of the colossal criminal, Tweed, and while the belief is almost universal that himself, his counsel and his friends fraudulently and criminally foisted men into the jury box pledged to resist a verdict of conviction, the *Tribune* insolently denounces the voice of the aroused public conscience as "hypocritical clamor," and demands that the "humbug" shall be stopped, that paper could hardly be guilty of a wider departure from the spirit of his founder than this. It begins to look as though its journey were already completed.

We heartily second the demand which a leading Western Republican newspaper makes for an investigation into the abuses of the Congressional lobby. The privilege of the floor is given to ex-members as a matter of courtesy. They are required to sign a pledge, recorded in a book kept by the door keeper of the House, that they will not use this privilege to engage in any claim, or to advocate measures that are pending before Congress. There are now some one hundred and sixty signatures attached to this pledge, mostly of ex-Representatives. As a matter of fact it is well known to every frequenter of the Capitol, that the shrewdest and most successful members of the lobby are to be found among those who habitually avail themselves of the courtesy extended to them as former members; many of whom, if they did not originally secure an election to Congress in order to enter on a more lucrative practice than they could obtain at home, have since leaving it managed to make the connections they have acquired of important service to their clients, which are generally the great corporations.

The movement in favor of emancipation in Cuba begins to assume formidable proportions, and the watchword "Cuba Libre," which has for so long a time been heard, already sounds like a pean of coming victory. An address to the people of the United States has recently been prepared by the Cuban Anti-Slavery Society in New York, calling for the sympathy and encouragement of all who believe that the time has come when an expression of sentiment on the part of the American people in the affairs of Cuba is demanded in behalf of liberty and right. Another petition addressed to President Grant is also to be presented at an early day, and a committee has been appointed by the Society to visit the principal cities for the purpose of obtaining signatures to the address to the President. The petition rehearses the wrongs which the Spanish government has compelled the Cuban people and prays that the government of the United States accord to the Cuban patriots that favorable recognition to which a four years' gallant struggle in the interest of freedom entitles them. The agitation is not confined to pamphlets, however. The arrival of the Cuban steamer Edgar Stewart at Key West with General Aguero aboard, who commanded the expedition, was the occasion of an enthusiastic demonstration by the Cubans in that vicinity, and a large sum was immediately subscribed toward liberating another expedition. Over three hundred men from Key West have signified their intention of joining the patriot ranks when their services are required.

THE LIBEL LAWS AND INDISCRIMINATE ABUSE OF LEGISLATORS

One of our Pennsylvania exchanges, commenting on the recent debate in the Legislature on the unjust and indiscriminate abuse of legislators as a body indulged in by some members of the Constitutional Convention, and citing the remark of Mr. Mitchell, of Tioga, that the charges made were general and not specific, says in substance: "Our pens are blunted; we *can* make nothing but general charges. If we say Mr. X. received $5,000 for his vote on a certain occasion, we are not permitted to prove the truth of the assertion in the courts. By general charges we cast suspicion on the good men. Let the good men modify the libel law, and we will be specific and individual in our charges."

This, to any one who has read the provision in our State Constitution on libel, is simply current sentiment, it being in fact the law, but it represents a very common error, and juries will be compelled to render unsatisfactory verdicts.

Boiler explosions, which have become so frequent all over the country, and which are so destructive of life, are generally traceable to *the incompetency, carelessness or criminal* neglect of those having charge of steam engines. Instances are not unfrequently found in the avariciousness of those who own the boilers, and who either force them to bear a pressure which renders them unsafe, or use them after they have become weakened from long and constant service. The United States authorities have, during the past twenty years, by a system of stringent laws, done much to prevent explosions on our rivers and lakes, and it is the judgment of many intelligent persons that the Legislature of this State should pass a law providing for the inspection of land boilers, at least in the larger cities, and restricting, under severe penalties, the carrying of high steam pressure. The details of the law should be carefully prepared, and should specially guard against the employment of incompetent engineers, and provide for the punishment of all persons, either as employers or employees, who, through negligence or otherwise, contribute to these disasters. It is needless to say that these remarks do not apply to the case in hand, since the members of the firm, as well as those in their employ, stand acquitted of any fault, much less neglect of duty or precaution.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

During the month of January there were 494 marriges in Chicago and Cook county. Divorce books not yet fully posted.

A lady in Henry county, Missouri has hair sixty-eight inches long. When she assumes a perpendicular position her tresses drag four inches of their length on the floor.

South Bend, Indiana, claims 150 industrial establishments, employing 2,100 workmen, and turning out an annual product of $5,000,000, or $3000 to each inhabitant of the town. Its buildings erected in 1872 cost $1,300,000.

In one of the scenes of a pantomime recently produced in Paris, characters become musical instruments, and after a ballet by ladies dressed as guitars and bells, assisted by children with concertina skirts, while the back ground is admirably filled up by an army of gigantic clarionets and flutes.

The husband of a wealthy and fashionable New York lady suddenly disappeared with an affinity ten years ago, and as suddenly reappeared some days since, begging to be restored to the uxorial arms. He claims to be exceedingly repentant, and, as no legal proceedings had been instituted, the divided twain have resumed the experiment of housekeeping.

A tippler at Trenton, Ill., having rendered himself disorderly with a dollar's worth of whisky, has recovered sixty dollars from the barkeeper who sold it to him. Let our guzzlers go thither and engage in this new and remunerative branch of industry.

Mr. R. Bruner, of Fawn Creek, Montgomery county, Kansas, planted cotton in June last, picked it three times, and had it out of the way fifteen days before frost came. He spent four years in the South, and says he never saw better cotton there or a better yield.

Deer recently brought into the markets of Southwestern Missouri, showed signs of having had their feet frozen. This surprises old sportsmen in that section, who once remember no like occurrence in their experience.

The Denver *News* says: A pretty well told little story is going the rounds of the Eastern press, about how a Union railway ticket seller in Denver was persuaded to change his mind, The most serious defects in the narrative are the facts that there is no Union ticket office in Denver, and nothing in the least degree resembling the alleged occurrence ever happened in this part of the country. Otherwise it is an admirable and appropriate Sunday-school sketch.

A Pulaski, Tenn., thief was arrested some time since for stealing a dime. He laid in jail at Columbia in expense to the county of $150. While there he managed to rob the warden of twelve dollars, and during his trial he stole one of the dimes which his attorney had laid on the table for identification by a witness. The trial resulted in the prisoner's acquittal, though he is now serving out a four years' sentence in the penitentiary for stealing the twelve dollars.

The city physician of Springfield, Mass., Miss Williams, has, thus far this winter, vaccinated upward of 3,000 persons, using several hundred dollars' worth of vaccine matter.

Silver ore has been discovered in Barton county, Missouri, and a gentleman is engaged in sinking a shaft to determine whether it exists in paying quantities. There is a legend in the neighborhood that about thirty years ago, some Mexicans were found near the location of the new shaft, engaged in coining money, and it is said the remains of a furnace are still to be seen there.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to the Pittsburg Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 4, 1873.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The private calander, containing one hundred and fifty bills, was taken up. A considerable discussion was had on bills in which the courts have power, and many were stricken off. No Allegheny bills were stricken off.

No new bills were passed except the act relating to Sheriff's sales, giving the right to redeem after appraisement.

Messrs. Orr and Mitchell made a united effort to rule off bills where the courts have power.

At five o'clock the House, after having the longest session of the season, adjourned.

SENATE.

Mr. Graham presented a petition against opening of roads through property of the Sheltering Arms, in Allegheny.

Bills Read.

Mr. Weakly—To extending the power of the Orphans' Court for the better protection of trust funds.

Mr. Humphreys—A supplement for Consolidated Gas Company of Pittsburgh, to allow them to issue bonds to extend their works.

Mr. Graham—To incorporate the Union Importing Company.

Mr. Wallace—To repeal all laws exempting real estate from taxation.

Mr. Rutan—A resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to frame a general law relating to the opening and vacating of streets and alleys in cities and boroughs.

Bills Passed.

Supplement to School Law of the City of Pittsburgh, relating to directors in new territory.

To authorize the Westmoreland Agricultural Society to borrow money.

To compel clerks of the counties in the Commonwealth to count the votes had on local option in the general returns.

The act relating to the measurement of lumber was postponed for the present.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 5, 1873.

SENATE.

In the Senate the Committee on Banks reported the compound Interest bank, with an amendment fixing the rate of interest at six per cent.

Bills Read.

Mr. Graham—To exempt Little Sisters of the Poor from taxation.

Also, supplement to the act for the improvement of Penn avenue, giving property owners the right to choose the kind of pavement to be laid.

Mr. Rutan—Supplement to the Penal Laws.

Mr. Strang—Joint resolution to Congress in favor of the improvement of the Susquehanna river.

An act to tax Philadelphia railways to aid the Centennial. Passed.

The bill relating to the measurement of lumber was postponed.

Youghiogheny Bridge.

The Youghiogheny bridge supplement which passed both Houses and was signed by the Governor, was a compromise between the coal road and the bridge company, making the height fifty feet, with an additional pier.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The new member from Green, Mr. Ledwith, appeared and was sworn in.

Steamboat Inspectors' Appropriation.

A lengthy debate occurred on recommitting the Centennial bill to reduce the amount. It was finally carried. The bill was amended to five hundred thousand dollars, and will be so reported.

Bills Reported from Committees.

The following bills were reported from committees: Jury Commissioners' bill; act to tax sheep in Westmoreland county ten cents each; act relating to Sheriff's sales; act to incorporate Lurgh [this bill has nothing to do with the Consolidation act]; act to regulate the election of city clerks of Pittsburgh; supplement to the Pennsylvania Railroad; supplement to the Birmingham Passenger Railway.

Pennsylvania Railroad Bill Passed.

Col. Noyes, of Clinton, called up the supplement to the Pennsylvania Railroad, allowing an increase of capital stock. He explained the bill in a few words. It was to enable the company intended to lay four tracks between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and did not feel like doing it out of the net earnings of the company. The bill was passed without one dissenting voice, and no one called for the ayes and nays.

The bill authorizing the Union Passenger Railway to lay double tracks on Fifth avenue, from Smithfield to Philadelphia, was next called and consumed the whole afternoon. Various attempts were made to amend the bill, but by a vote of seventy-two to seventy-one the House refused to allow any amendments, passed the bill through all its readings, suspended the rules and passed it finally. President McGrath, of the Passenger Railway Company, representing the Union, whilst Morton, President of the Market street line, watched their interests.

Bills Finally Passed.

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No. 92. An act to regulate the duties of Supervisor and Civil Engineer for Allegheny county.

No. 93. An act to regulate the salaries of court criers and tipstaves in the courts of Allegheny county.

No. 122. An act equalizing the time of payment and mode of fixing compensations of the several officers of Allegheny county.

No. 170. An act relating to Sheriff's sales in the county of Allegheny, providing for the appraisement of the same before sale and giving the right to redeem.

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No. 148—An act to incorporate the Allegheny Land Company.

No. 149—An act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Land Improvement Company.

No. 151—An act to incorporate the Franciscan German Hospital.

These bills went over because the Courts have power.

Senate Bill No. 16—To prohibit the deposit of the dead carcasses of horses, cattle and swine in certain rivers in Allegheny county.

Read in Place.

The following bills were read in place at Tuesday's night session:

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To incorporate the Fidelity Trust Company.

Mr. Sample—An act to authorize the School Directors of the First ward, Allegheny, to borrow money.

An act relative to the laying out of streets in the borough of Millvale.

An act relative to the assessment of taxes in the borough of Millvale and to borrow money.

Mr. Newmeyer—A supplement to the Pittsburgh and Temperanceville Savings bank, changing its location and authorizing an increase in the number of directors.

Mr. McCormick—An act to incorporate the Union Improvement Company.

Mr. Ballentine—An act to incorporate the Pittsburgh and Cove City Railroad Company.

New County Bill.

Mr. Brockway introduced a new bill, making a new county out of portions of Bradford, Sullivan, Lycoming and Tioga, to be called Minegua, with the county seat at Minegua Springs, in Lycoming county. Mr. Brockway claims that the proposed new county contains over four hundred square miles and over twenty thousand inhabitants.

Mr. Lawson, of Clarion—An act to authorize the Commissioners of Forest county to borrow money to build a bridge over Tionesta creek.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, Pa., February 3, 1873.

The guests at the Lochiel had a thorough scare on Sunday morning about three o'clock. The frame stable of George Bergner, which abuts on the boiler room of the Lochiel Hotel and adjoins the building in the yard of the latter used as a washhouse, caught fire at that hour and was speedily in flames. The Mayor's office being in that neighborhood, the police on duty during the night promptly gave the alarm, and the Hunkers, fearful for the properties of the hotel, leaving her children to be cared for by her husband, rushed through the various corridors of the house crying "Fire!" in a tone that conveyed a sense of the utmost terror to those who heard it. And every one did hear it. The dullest ears were wakened by that heart-piercing cry of alarm, and, jumping out of bed, the guests saw fire and the flames shining in at every window, conveying to the minds of those just aroused from sleep the idea that the whole building was in flames. There was a hurried dressing, a still more hurried packing of trunks and valises, and a noisy removal of them to the neighborhood of the street. Many trembled with fear at a repetition of the Fifth Avenue Hotel horror stimulated every one to make the quickest possible exit; and I must bear witness, here, to the fact that in the excusable excitement of the moment, the women in the house behaved with the most coolness and showed the most presence of mind.

When, however, the thoroughly alarmed people, who had been looking first to their own safety, could give one minute's attention to the facts of the case, it was found that the hotel was in no danger at all, but only the out-buildings. These, however, were exceedingly inflammable, and the hotel was full of windows and balconies open to the fire from which the flames would leap. If only water could be got to pour on to those burning stables and sheds, the hotel might be saved. There were plenty of fire plugs and several steam fire engines to quench the flames; but alas! the fire plugs were frozen up! No water would flow from any of them. This impecunious city had failed to place funds in the hands of the fire department to keep the fire plugs open, and here was a big fire, in the heart of the city, the wind blowing keen and cold from the west, and not a drop of water to put the fire out! If that fire got headway, if the hotel caught the blaze, the entire square, with the square opposite, including the Court House, jail, Brant's Hall, the Jones House, Singerly's State Printing office, and the principal stores in town, were all sure to go. So much for municipal niggardliness. Fortunately, some one thought of a dry piano box handy, split it, piled it around one of the frozen fire plugs, set fire to the pile and thawed out the frozen pipes, and while some other thoughtful citizen piled another plug with hot water until it also yielded, and, water being thus rendered plenty, the fire was soon extinguished. But not until all of us poor creatures had been kept out of our warm beds for two mortal hours, on a cold morning, with the doors all wide open, and water flowing everywhere, and thus every one provided with a solid cold sure to last for several weeks, if not for the session. For one, I can already give a nasal twang to all my words that would do honor to Praise-God-Barebones or any other member of Cromwell's Roundheads, and I expect to go around for weeks to come, sniffing and sneezing like one in the early stages of epizootic. The cold in the head, however, can better be endured than being burned out on an inclement night in mid-winter. Fortunately for all concerned, the fire occurred on Sunday morning, when most of the members of the Legislature, who are winter boarders, had gone home, and much confusion that would otherwise have occurred from a crowded house was thus prevented.

The passage of a Congressional apportionment bill is one of the necessities of this session, but as yet no bill has been framed for that purpose. Several have been sketched out; but the task is one of the utmost difficulty, as the claims of every aspirant for Congressional honors has to be taken into account. Westmoreland does not want to go into a Democratic district, nor does Washington; and yet one or the other must, or otherwise Fayette and Greene cannot be disposed of. Schuylkill also wants to be saved, and so do Montgomery and Bucks. In fact, the Republicans in every minority county want to get into Republican districts, if possible, and every Republican Senator and Representative wants his county or district properly taken care of. The difficulty is to dovetail all these conflicting plans together into a harmonious whole, and no one has yet been found skilful enough to do it. Gen. White wants Indiana and Westmoreland kept together, and Senator Rutan wants Washington and Beaver joined, as now. This would seem easy enough, at first sight, but if both are accommodated, Fayette and Greene must be put on to Somerset, and Senator Lemon will not stand for it. Cessna wants Erie to be put with Erie, and Mercer begs not to be put with Crawford. Butler is unwilling to go with Beaver, and Lawrence has a similar objection. Allegheny insists on being cut from Bedford, and on not being swallowed up by Cumberland or York. Wayne wants to go with Susquehanna, and Clinton does not want to be put with Lycoming or Centre. And so it goes, until every one who has tried to figure out an apportionment gives it up in despair.

The schemes to cure this trouble are numerous but abortive. A favorite plan with those who have no larger horizon than their own district is to cut Allegheny into *three* districts, adding on Washington, Beaver and Butler or Lawrence, Butler and Armstrong, and to cut Philadelphia into six or seven districts, adding on Montgomery and Bucks to eke out the needed ratio of population.

The objection to all cuts is that Philadelphia cuts naturally into five districts and Allegheny into two, both having just the required amount of population for those members, and there is, therefore, no excuse for adding to either. Cutting Philadelphia on the ratio for a Representative is about 133,000. Philadelphia has 674,022, and five times 133,000 is 665,000, leaving a surplus of 9,000. Allegheny has 362,204, or 3,800 short of the number required for two members. There are, consequently, no large fraction in either, and to cut either counties or wards would be simply unnecessary, but would savor too much of gerrymandering to be justifiable. In the case of Allegheny, the territory between the rivers and lines on which cross the north side might take on Butler or Beaver, and the south side might take Washington; but in that event, if Allegheny claimed all three representatives on the ratio she could complain, and if the counties named should expect members alternately Allegheny would complain. It can easily conceive of circumstances which would make such a cut, but would get none of the Congressmen, the outside counties getting them all. The safest plan is to leave Philadelphia and Allegheny to themselves, to work up into the districts into which they naturally divide. Special.

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Mr. Ballentine—An act to incorporate the Pittsburgh and Cove City Railroad Company.

New County Bill.

Mr. Brockway introduced a new bill, making a new county out of portions of Bradford, Sullivan, Lycoming and Tioga, to be called Minegua, with the county seat at Minegua Springs, in Lycoming county. Mr. Brockway claims that the proposed new county contains over four hundred square miles and over twenty thousand inhabitants.

Mr. Lawson, of Clarion—An act to authorize the Commissioners of Forest county to borrow money to build a bridge over Tionesta creek.

Credit Mobilier Ring.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1873.

Stewart, the lobbyist, is well established in the Woolley prison at the Capitol, and still refuses to tell anything. He was, however, partially flanked to-day by the committee through evidence given by his chief lobby assistant, Alex. Hay, at the time of his use of the corruption fund traced to him. Hay did not intend to tell anything, and it is impossible to give an idea of his rambling answers; but he did describe the character of the bonds used with such definiteness that the chances are good that some of them will be traced. Beside Union Pacific bonds there was a large lot of construction bonds, of what is now known as the Kansas Pacific, distributed. These were of the denomination of one thousand dollars each, and were exchangable for regular bonds of the road at a later period, and some of these were afterwards redeemed at a handsome figure. To-morrow the committee expects to reach the matter of the stock jobbery scheme, the details of which were given by Horace Clark yesterday, and for the introduction in the House of the resolution to promote it General Negley will be called to account. He says he did it in his line of duty, and was not a party to the full knowledge of its reaching Wall street three days before he moved it on the floor. Those who know Cowlamd, Butler's secretary, think he did not write the letters sent to Clark without assistance.

Colfax Will Appear To-day.

Mr. Colfax informed Judge Poland to-day that he would appear to-morrow through counsel, and attempt to vindicate himself. McComb will also be examined and will produce the remainder of his letters from Ames. The sessions of both committees promise to be of an important character.

By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, January 31.—At the sitting of Judge Poland's committee this morning, Wilson was recalled and again went over the subject of his transactions with Brooks relating to the transfer of Credit Mobilier and Union Pacific stock.

Dr. T. C. Durant appeared and submitted a reply to John B. Alley's testimony of January 2, saying that Alley's statements were at variance as to the facts concerning the two corporations, and untrue and unjust as to persons living and deceased. Durant then quoted from the records of the railroad company the Hoxie contract and organization of the Credit Mobilier. Ames, Alley, and their friends were not the original subscribers in the Union Pacific road, their only interest having arisen from their connection with Credit Mobilier. Alley and friends seemed to consider they had saved the Union Pacific as robbed from them as stockholders of the Credit Mobilier. Alley had, with unparalleled impudence, attributed to Durant and his partners views and policy of their opponents. Ames & Co. developed several plans which increased the cost of construction of the railroad company. One of these plans was the payment of large commissions to themselves for loans to the company, or bonds sold for it such loans. The locomotives, which had been purchased at government sale as condemned property and being useless, were forced upon the company by Oakes Ames. They well knew that one hundred and fifty miles of the road now being finished on Saturday and implicit confidence had been placed in its reliability. Just before the fatal crash occurred, a man had examined the boiler and found the valve perfectly loose, there being but three gauges of water on at the time. Six were killed outright, three of them being boys. The men were employed in the print works, which were distant some two hundred feet from the place of the explosion. They were standing at the door of the works when the boiler burst. The names of the killed are: Wm. Hummel, Jr., W. H. Carroll, Wm. Kelly and Wm. Barrett. The last two named died shortly after the explosion. The names of the three boys have not been ascertained; one of them was literally cut in two. It is feared that many of the wounded will die. The day workmen had left for their homes at the time of the explosion, and the night workmen were on their way to the foundry. There is a scene of sickening horror presented at the mill, half of which is in ruins.

Later—James Satterlie and Wm. Kelly died this afternoon, making eleven deaths in all. Robert Geary was reported to be dying this evening. An inquest on the bodies was held to-day. The verdict of the jury is that "deceased came to their deaths by the explosion of a boiler in the mill of J. Painter & Sons & Bro.; and in the opinion of the jury, said boiler had, by long and continued use, became in certain parts dangerously thin, and the required pressure of eighty pounds of steam."

THE OIL REGION3.

Formation of a New Pipe Line Company.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PARKER'S LANDING, PA., February 4, 1873.

The producers of the Parker's Landing Petrolia district have just organized a new company to pipe oil, under the name of the "Ocean Pipe Company." It is designed that the stock, which is fixed at $200,000 in shares of $100, shall be held only by producers, and two-thirds of it has already been taken up by them. The incorporators are the most prominent producers of the lower districts—viz.: Marcus Hufings, J. N. Phillips, Peter Hutchinson, J. N. McKinney, G. H. Nesbitt and W. J. Hufings. So soon as all the stock is taken, ample time and age will be erected at the mouth of Bear creek, and pipes laid out as far as Karns City and Fairview. Dissatisfaction with existing lines, who it is alleged were incompetent to pipe and tank any considerable part of the production, and also are believed to be in league with combinations of speculators, has caused the formation of this company. The incorporators are of the best business men in the region, several of them understanding the piping of oil, and there is every reason to believe that the company will soon command the largest share of the business.

Leading journals speak of Congressmen as having in an eminent degree a respect for the eternal fitness of art, inasmuch as they contracted with Vinnie Ream for an equestrian statue of Admiral Farragut. However, there is consolation in the fact that the model for this caricature of a brave sailor who was never seen on a horse in his life, was shattered into a thousand fragments, the other day, while being removed to the Capitol.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 5, 1873.

The Credit Mobilier Expose—A Question of Jurisdiction.

The members of the Poland Committee have had a formal discussion in regard to the question of its jurisdiction over the various phases of the Credit Mobilier matter thus far developed by the evidence. This comparison of views was sought as preliminary to a study of the evidence, with a view to a final report. In the brief discussion had it came out that only two members were without doubts as to the power of the present House to call the members to account for the acts committed while members of a former Congress. These two members were decided in the opinion that the House had full power in the case. One member was decided in an exactly opposite opinion, maintaining that the House could inflict no punishment when the offense was committed during a previous Congress. Two members were as yet unwilling to express opinions, but the indications were that they would agree with the view that the House has no jurisdiction. It was agreed to strike from the record all that relates to persons not members of the present Congress, and also all relating to Senators, the latter to be disposed of by certifying it to the other body. The Senate will return this testimony in the compliment of the House as the evidence involving Representative Sypher, given yesterday by Mr. Jacques, United States Inspector of Elections in Louisiana, can be certified to with the probability that it or any other special payment measure will be reported to the House this session. Mr. Monroe, of the committee, favors the immediate passage of his bill for fifty-five millions additional currency for the South and West increasing in the House, and expects that he may be able to pass it before the end of the session.

Other Financial Measures.

The committee this morning agreed on Mr. Hear's bill providing for the safety of government bonds by registry in National banks. Mr. Hooper's, prohibiting on penalty of five hundred dollars and five and six months imprisonment, either or both, the manufacture or circulation as money of any note or other obligation by corporations or individuals, and Mr. Hooper's bill providing for the payment in the special bank pay for every ten days. The latter is optional payment after the 1st of June.

The Specie Payment Measure.

The defeat of Sherman's Specie Payment bill by the Senate this afternoon, was altogether sudden and unexpected, but it fully confirms the general impression that there will be no financial legislation of importance at this session, and that neither party ever intended there should be. The debate in the Senate on the bill has developed great diversity of opinion among the leaders, and the evidence that the passage

THE COUNTY WORKHOUSE.

Third Annual Report of the Superintendent.

AN IMPORTANT EXHIBIT.

Interesting Statistics—Receipts and Expenditures—Operations of the Barrel Factory—Improvements During the Year—What Is Needed for the Future, etc., etc.

The following report of H. Cordier, Esq., the able Superintendent of the County Workhouse was submitted at a meeting of the Board of Managers, yesterday, and accepted. It will be read with interest by every tax-payer in the county:

ALLEGHENY COUNTY WORKHOUSE, CLARKSVILLE, December 31, 1872.

To the Board of Managers:

GENTLEMEN—I beg leave to submit to your honorable Board my third annual report as Superintendent of this institution, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1872:

NUMBER OF PRISONERS.

In confinement December 31, 1871	241
Received during the year—	
Males	1,556
Females	297-1,853
Total for the year	2,094
Of the above number there were—	
Discharged on expiration of sentence	1,963
Discharged by commutation of law	15
Discharged by order of Court	6
Pardoned by Governor	6
Removed to asylum	3
Died	4
Escaped	1
Total discharged during the year	1,722
Leaving in confinement, December 31, 1872	372

Of whom there are three hundred and twenty-three (323) males and forty-nine (49) females, showing an increase of one hundred and thirty-one (131) prisoners.

The highest number of prisoners ever in the jail at one time was three hundred and seventy-two in the month of December, and the lowest two hundred and thirty-nine in the month of January.

The monthly average for the year has been three hundred and five, to wit: two hundred and fifty-eight and fifty-five females.

The aggregate of sentences of prisoners committed during the year was three hundred and forty-one years, two months and fifteen days, and the average imprisonment sixty-seven days; or in other words, out of a total of eighteen hundred and fifty-three committals fourteen hundred and twelve were for terms of from twenty to sixty days, three hundred and sixty-six for terms ranging between six and six months, and sixty-five were sent for periods longer than a year, in two solitary cases only exceeding two years.

Of the eighteen hundred and fifty-three prisoners received during the year, and in addition to the thirty furnished eleven hundred and forty-seven, the city of Allegheny four hundred and twenty-eight, and the county of Allegheny, exclusive of the two cities, two hundred and seventy-six, and Fayette county two.

For further information in regard to the statistics of the prisoners of the institution, I refer to the various tables annexed to this report.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES.

The year just closed has been an important epoch in the history of this institution. It has demonstrated beyond a doubt, that even short-termed prisoners, unskilled in mechanical pursuits, need not be a constant burden to the tax-payers, but may be transformed into actual producers, and thus become their own supporters and a source of income to the county.

As the Work-house, up to the end of January, had no shop-buildings whatever, there was scarcely any scope or opportunity for the employment of the prisoners in any kind of productive labor. It is true, many of our inmates could heretofore be used as a means of saving money, by improving the grounds and assisting in the erection of buildings, but of not earning money to any extent for the support of the institution. It is with much satisfaction, therefore, that I can call your attention to the cash earnings of the Workhouse, during the past year, which in the aggregate amount to the sum as follows:

From the barrel factory	$30,388 78
From the brick yard	5,169 02
From the sale of wagons, old barrels, coal tar, &c.,	4,284 22
	1,653 26
Total earnings	$41,495 38

The total for current expenditures, which phrase includes rations, clothing and the guarding of prisoners, fuel and light, medicines, ordinary repairs, &c., during the same time have been | $7,663 25

Leaving a deficiency of | $ 6,167 97

In this connection, allow me to refer to another point. While no credit is claimed for unavailable, though necessary and valuable, labor, performed by prisoners, such as washing, cooking, cleaning, sewing, mending, &c., or even for ordinary repairs made by them, the labor account should certainly be credited with the work done by the inmates in making new and permanent improvements on the grounds of the Workhouse. The barrel-shed, with a capacity of holding six thousand barrels, has been erected and finished exclusively by our prisoners. They have also excavated two cellars, a cistern and the foundations for the new buildings constructed during the past season, and have built a large and substantial piggery. The amounts thus earned from legitimately a part of our income, and according to careful estimates, sum up as follows:

Carpenters' work	$680 00
Stone and brick work	75 00
Painting	65 00
2,698 cubic yards excavating, at 35c	943 75
Total	$1,762 75

This amount deducted from the above | 6,167 97

Leaves an actual deficiency of | $4,415 22

It may be seen from the foregoing statements that the Workhouse came, in the year 1872, very near of being self-supporting. When taking into consideration that the experiment of conducting this institution upon a definite and settled basis has, for the first two or three months of the year been incomplete, and that, as a consequence, at this time a large majority of our prisoners, many of whom more or less broken in health, were sent for terms not exceeding sixty days, the financial condition of the institution seems to me a source of hearty congratulation, full of promise and encouragement.

BARREL FACTORY.

As stated in my last report, from the Board of Managers, after many discussions and much careful thought, concluded to employ the inmates of this institution in the manufacture of oil barrels. From the fact, that the barrel making affords suitable employment for unskilled labor, that the combined product of the coopers of Western Pennsylvania is insufficient to supply the demand (at least four hundred thousand barrels being annually imported from other States), and that our inmates are furnished with a crab in which they are certain to find employment after their release, the selection of this branch of manufacture was one eminently fit to be made, in regard to both the financial and reformatory interests of the institution.

After the workshops had been completed they were at once furnished with the most approved machinetrix, which, together with engine and boilers, required in the neighborhood of twenty thousand nine hundred and thirty-four dollars and fourteen cents.

Four hundred barrels are now turned out daily, but preparations have been made, by enlarging the shop buildings and introducing other improvements, which will increase our manufacturing capacity to double that number.

About one hundred and twenty inmates are at present employed in the barrel yard, and as I intend to them I must say that they quickly mastered the details of this branch of industry, and from the start worked with a will and energy which well deserves our hearty commendation. As a consequence, our barrels soon established the reputation of being in quality inferior to none anywhere manufactured, and were always sold for the highest prices that are paid for articles of the kind.

From the detailed statement annexed to this report, and to which I now respectfully refer when called, it will be seen that the profits in the barrel factory amounted to thirty thousand three hundred and eighty-eight dollars and seventy-eight cents, which gain will be materially enhanced during the ensuing fiscal year.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Among the most important improvements made during the past year, may be mentioned:

1. An addition to the barrel factory forty feet wide, eighty-five feet long, and two stories high.

2. Having labored under much disadvantage for the want of a suitable ice house and store rooms, a building forty-four feet long and thirty-two feet wide and fifteen feet high, has been erected to answer those purposes, and

3. A commodious and well designed stable, fifty-four feet long, thirty-seven feet wide, and twenty feet high, is nearly finished and ready for occupancy.

These buildings, substantial and strong, have been erected on contract for the sum of eighteen hundred and $12,-816 75. All the materials required in their construction, except brick, have been furnished by the contractors, whose work was done faithfully, and in accordance with their obligations. Many other valuable improvements and repairs have been made during the past year, all by prison labor, and without any expense to the county.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

The number of prisoners confined at the end of each of the past three years, respectively, is shown in the following table:

1870	137
1871	241
1872	372

The rapid increase of prisoners during the past three years, by far exceeding all our speculations, imperatively demands an immediate enlargement of the Workhouse.

The number of males now in confinement is three hundred and twenty-three, being forty-three more than we have cells for. It has, therefore, become necessary to lodge a portion of them in the hospital and other vacant rooms, neither intended nor suitable for that purpose, as an extension of the cells is a necessity, and should be made at the same time, require an extension of the prison mess, a different plan must be adopted to provide for an additional number of cells. The Workhouse proper, as it now stands, completed and beautifully finished, is in size and style one of the most imposing buildings of its kind in the country, and any alteration or addition would grossly mar the harmony of its architectural design, and give us, at the best, only a temporary relief from our present inconvenience, while, having the fullest wisdom from the past, we should make our preparations with reference to a super-ior future necessity, and no wiser plan could be adopted as the one often suggested: to erect a separate female prison in connection with this institution and adjacent to the same administration.

This change would give us at once one hundred and twenty-four (124) cells, now occupied by the females, for the use of the male prisoners, with room enough for the construction of at least as many more, should necessity demand it. The capacity of the Workhouse would then accommodate all persons committed to this institution, for probably the next twenty-five years. I must confess it may not be the cheapest, but in the long run would certainly be the most economical plan for the county, and the erection of a female prison should at once be begun.

The rapid increase of prisoners also calls for additional shop room, the necessity of which will not be questioned when it is known that many of our inmen, for want of suitable employment constantly be kept in their narrow cells. To give them some useful employment seems to be really an act of charity, but it cannot be done until the workshop has been erected, in which we may organize another branch of industry.

REWARDS.

There seems to be no doubt in the mind of any experienced prison officer that hope of reward, and not fear of punishment, is the most powerful and effective stimulus to industry and good conduct. This theory, however, correct as it is, has never been liberally applied in the practical administration of our prisons, and especially not in one of its most essential points. While prisoners are required to work faithfully from morning till night, they very seldom derive any personal benefit from their labor. The fruits of their toil are harvested by others, and thus the main spring of all human efforts, hope of reward, being taken away they often become indifferent and reckless in their behavior, and work only reluctantly, like slaves, for their seemingly unjust taskmasters.

A well devised system of rewards, which grafts to the deserving prisoner a portion of his daily earnings, after he has paid for his own keeping, should be introduced in all our penal institutions.

My own experience, made during the past year, confirms me in the conviction long since entertained that such a system would be a powerful assistance in the proper execution of prison discipline, and, at the same time, even in pecuniary respects lead to very favorable results. As an example, it was concluded several months ago to allow the inmates of this institution, employed in the manufacture of barrels, a certain amount of money for every one, after the standard reward had been fixed, it was simply stipulated that no extra labor should be credited for the day a prisoner had been guilty of any infraction of the rules of discipline.

The system of rewards, thus introduced and tested on a small scale, has been very salutary in its effects. It promoted good conduct and encouraged the prisoners to perform their tasks cheerfully, for, while they were working for us in reality, they had the satisfaction of knowing that they were also working for themselves and their families.

The rewards for overwork should, consequently, not only be retained, but, if possible, be made applicable to all prisoners employed in productive labor.

THIS INSTITUTION A WORKHOUSE.

The aim and purposes involved in the idea of workhouse—a place at once penal and reformatory—cannot be thoroughly carried out while the uses, to which it is put, are so ill-regulated and anomalous. The original mistake in regard to it was the endeavor to combine in the economy of *one* establishment the curative characteristics of an asylum with the discipline of a penitentiary.

Naturally the attempt to reconcile their incongruous features offers a wide discretion to magistrates in this and in other counties, and to a small amount of reflection and judgment is sometimes required to draw a line between the workhouse, the poor house, and the lunatic asylum. A continual and most embarrassing consequence of this has been that—so far as the Workhouse is concerned—a very little discrimination has been thought of, and it is made a sort of general receptacle for most every variety of *waif* from its well as crime.

This might do very well if the accommodations of this place were as varied as are the unfortunates sent here for safe keeping; but they are not. The poor, debilitated wretch, first broken down with drink and then worn out with sleeplessness and famine, or prostrated with disease, wants medical aid, care and nourishment. Those still more pitiable, who are temporarily deprived of reason, have a claim of even greater urgency for particular consideration and humane appliances adapted to their dreadful need. Put the former with his exhausted vitality and shattered nerves in a small cell by himself, and very doubtful are the chances of his speedy recovery. Lock up the latter behind the iron bars, that he will become wildly perhaps hopelessly insane, and yet, what else can be done with them at the Workhouse as one of the inevitable burdens which every mixed community has to bear.

Furthermore, the public has become strongly imbued with the idea that the Workhouse can be made self-supporting. So it can—as a *workhouse*. But with thirty per cent of its population composed of invalid and disabled persons, who can reasonably expect such a favorable result.

The Children of Israel complained of their Egyptian task-masters, that they could not make bricks without straw. The Board of Managers and the Superintendent of the Workhouse would with equal justice declare that they cannot organize and govern a model House of Correction—reformatory and reformative—unless they are granted, in part at least, such opportunities as have enabled other similar institutions to become a success.

DISCIPLINE.

Reformation cannot be accomplished, unless the prisoner is taught to submit respectfully to the rules and regulations of the institution, of which he happens to be an inmate. He must be made to feel and understand that he is to atone and suffer for the violation of certain laws, and that he cannot regain his former moral and social position, certainly not his freedom at once, by a mere lapse of time, when if his offense calls for this, the most severe and rigid punishment known in this country, the deprivation of which, as a corrective measure, has always been found effective and very salutary in its results.

In the connection, it gives me much pleasure to be able to state that during the past year, and their general good conduct, has been very satisfactory, and deserves our highest praise. Of the two hundred and forty-one males, in a population of two thousand and ninety-three, who were punished, generally very mildly and for trifling offenses.

In regard to the religious and sanitary condition of the institution, your attention is respectfully called to the chaplain's and physician's reports respectively herewith submitted. They being full and satisfactory, it is only left for me to bear testimony to the zeal and energy manifested by these efficient officers in the performance of the moral and physical welfare of the inmates of the institution.

IN CONCLUSION,

allow me to tender my sincere thanks to Mr. Kennedy, the Deputy Warden, and all other officers and employees, for the faithful performance of their respective duties; and to you, gentlemen of the Board, I may be under participation of applications for whatever success may have crowned my efforts in the management of the affairs of this institution; for, owing to your kind advice and wise counsels, to me so liberally accorded on all occasions. Respectfully,

HENRY CORDIER, Superintendent.

STATE NEWS.

The National Turf Congress met in Philadelphia yesterday.

The Oxford Presbyterian church, Broad and Oxford streets, Philadelphia, raised $31,000 on last Sunday morning—enough to pay its debt of $25,000, and to build a new school house. One gentleman subscribed $3,000.

Thirty-seven dry goods firms in Philadelphia have subscribed $100,000 to the Centennial fund.

On the 12th of September last, at York, a man named Levi Beavenour struck Franklin Miller, a boy, on the head with a gun. Miller died on the 13th of October, but the matter was never thoroughly investigated until last week, when the body was disinterred, and a *post mortem* examination made. After hearing the testimony of the witnesses and of other witnesses, the Coroner's jury returned a verdict that the boy came to his death by a blow on his head from Beavenour with a gun by Beavenour.

Benjamin Goff, aged seventy-one years, was found dead in his bed in Harrisburg on Tuesday morning.

Perry Haas, confined in the Northumberland county jail under sentence of death, is in the last stages of consumption, and the probability is that he will never be hanged.

Isaac Buffington, of Milesburg, Centre county, has kept a record of the snows this winter, and reports that the depth thus far is thirty-one inches.

Muskrats are numerous in Perry county this winter. Two men caught twenty-five of them in one afternoon last week.

Twenty-seven of the counties as now organized were embraced within the boundaries of Northampton county in 1787.

Losing money on a business contract was too much for the mind of Jacob Seebold, of Snyder county, and he is now insane.

Should Tioga be divided, the new county will be called Highland.

The expenses of the contested election cases in Luzerne fall on that county. A bill of at least fifty thousand dollars will have to be footed.

Williamsport is an aspirant for the State Capital. The *Gazette and Bulletin* says: "The city is one of the handsomest in the State and supplied with every modern improvement. Its railroad facilities are unsurpassed, and other important lines, which will place it in close connection with every part of the Commonwealth, will soon be completed. From the way in which it is increasing there is but little doubt that in ten years it will rank next to Philadelphia in population. The citizens are alike distinguished for their enterprise and hospitality, and strangers are generally favorably impressed with the place. Taking everything into consideration, we think there is no other place in the State as well adapted for the State Capital as the city of Williamsport."

The store of D. A. Berkeypile, in East Conemaugh, was entered on Monday night by burglars and robbed of $125 worth of goods. No clue.

The Reading *Times and Dispatch* says: A father and son named Reese, residing near Port Union, this county, were returning from Reading in a sleigh last Saturday night, but very much intoxicated, when the horse, being blind, missed the bridge that crosses a run half a mile below Birdsboro, and upset the sleigh. The son was entirely helpless, but the father managed to get assistance from a house near by. The son was carried to the hotel of Mr. Heinrock, apparently frozen to death. Dr. Hallman was called in, and after using proper restoratives the young man began to show signs of life and is now in a fair way to recover.

The Meadville *Republican* says: A case of much interest to bankers was tried in our Court of Common Pleas last week. The facts appearing in the trial were as follows: Eugene L. Smith made a note, payable to John D. McFarland, or order. At the request of McFarland, Jesse A. Losee indorsed the note in blank; in other words, wrote his name across the back of the note. McFarland, the payee, negotiated the note to Bissell & Co., bankers, of Petroleum Center, and made the transfer by writing his name across the note below the name of Losee. The note fell due and was protested for non-payment. *After* protest, the bank wishing the note indorsed differently, had McFarland write his name across the back of the note, *above* that of Losee. The bank brought suit against Losee on the note. The defense was, that the indorsement of the name in blank, by Losee, simply made him a second indorser, to be *preceded* by McFarland, as payee of the note, and that being indorsed by the payee *below* Losee, it was irregular commercial paper, and the bank took it with enough upon its face to put them upon their guard. The verdict was for the defendant.

A handsome waiter girl in a St. Louis hotel, whose reputation is unsullied, was insulted, the other day, while performing her duties in the dining room, by a man, a railroad enineer, who called her bad names. Proceeding to the kitchen, she procured a pan of hot dishwater, and returning to where the ruffian was seated at the table taking his supper, dashed the greasy fluid over his head and shoulders. The thoroughly drenched fellow arose, seized a chair and knocked the girl down with it, inflicting a severe wound on her head. He would have done her further injury had not the other girls in the room interfered. The affray created a decided sensation among the boarders, who express regret that the water was not hot enough to scald.

A man in Clinton, Massachusetts, has a dog whose extraordinary wisdom is thus evinced: While getting his forenoon lunch from a neighbor's pail of "odds and ends," he upset the pail, which fell to pieces. Seeing the mischief he had done, he at once trotted home and took back a sound pail, which he substituted for the broken one, carefully transferring the contents of the old to the new, and as carefully covering his tracks by carrying off and hiding the staves of the disintegrated vessel.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 5, 1873.

The very favorable conditions of the European money market, the rate of discount at the Bank of England being now 3½ per cent. is facilitating the placing of the new five per cent. loan by the syndicate. The subscription books for the loan were opened simultaneously there and in this country. There is an obvious advantage in this plan which will be much more satisfactory to all parties than the slow, tedious method adopted for disposing of the former two hundred millions. We are informed Mr. Boutwell has insisted on one condition, that the National banks shall be allotted the full amount of bonds for which they subscribe, even if the subscriptions in Europe shall exceed the whole three hundred millions. Whatever allotment will be made in such a contingency our National banks will receive their full subscriptions. As this negotiation is most probably the last in which the 5 per cents will be offered by the government, this arrangement enabling the banks to substitute 5 per cents for 6's is very acceptable, and is being rapidly taken advantage of. Banks which now fail to provide themselves with 5's will doubtless have soon to surrender their 6's for 4's or 4½ per cents.

We note by our cable dispatches that the loan is already quoted at a premium in Europe. The placing of the loan has produced quite a sensation in the money markets, and no suitable quarters should be provided, and the taxpayers must accept the necessity of occasionally maintaining them at some expense as one of the inevitable burdens which every mixed community has to bear.

Furthermore, the public has become strongly imbued with the idea that the Workhouse can be made self-supporting. So it can—as a *workhouse*. But with thirty per cent of its population composed of invalid and disabled persons, who can reasonably expect such a favorable result.

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In regard to the religious and sanitary condition of the institution, your attention is respectfully called to the chaplain's and physician's reports respectively herewith submitted. They being full and satisfactory, it is only left for me to bear testimony to the zeal and energy manifested by these efficient officers in the performance of the moral and physical welfare of the inmates of the institution.

IN CONCLUSION,

allow me to tender my sincere thanks to Mr. Kennedy, the Deputy Warden, and all other officers and employees, for the faithful performance of their respective duties; and to you, gentlemen of the Board, I may be under participation of applications for whatever success may have crowned my efforts in the management of the affairs of this institution; for, owing to your kind advice and wise counsels, to me so liberally accorded on all occasions. Respectfully,

HENRY CORDIER, Superintendent.

STATE NEWS.

The National Turf Congress met in Philadelphia yesterday.

The Oxford Presbyterian church, Broad and Oxford streets, Philadelphia, raised $31,000 on last Sunday morning—enough to pay its debt of $25,000, and to build a new school house. One gentleman subscribed $3,000.

Thirty-seven dry goods firms in Philadelphia have subscribed $100,000 to the Centennial fund.

On the 12th of September last, at York, a man named Levi Beavenour struck Franklin Miller, a boy, on the head with a gun. Miller died on the 13th of October, but the matter was never thoroughly investigated until last week, when the body was disinterred, and a *post mortem* examination made. After hearing the testimony of the witnesses and of other witnesses, the Coroner's jury returned a verdict that the boy came to his death by a blow on his head from Beavenour with a gun by Beavenour.

Benjamin Goff, aged seventy-one years, was found dead in his bed in Harrisburg on Tuesday morning.

Perry Haas, confined in the Northumberland county jail under sentence of death, is in the last stages of consumption, and the probability is that he will never be hanged.

Isaac Buffington, of Milesburg, Centre county, has kept a record of the snows this winter, and reports that the depth thus far is thirty-one inches.

Muskrats are numerous in Perry county this winter. Two men caught twenty-five of them in one afternoon last week.

Twenty-seven of the counties as now organized were embraced within the boundaries of Northampton county in 1787.

Losing money on a business contract was too much for the mind of Jacob Seebold, of Snyder county, and he is now insane.

Should Tioga be divided, the new county will be called Highland.

The expenses of the contested election cases in Luzerne fall on that county. A bill of at least fifty thousand dollars will have to be footed.

Williamsport is an aspirant for the State Capital. The *Gazette and Bulletin* says: "The city is one of the handsomest in the State and supplied with every modern improvement. Its railroad facilities are unsurpassed, and other important lines, which will place it in close connection with every part of the Commonwealth, will soon be completed. From the way in which it is increasing there is but little doubt that in ten years it will rank next to Philadelphia in population. The citizens are alike distinguished for their enterprise and hospitality, and strangers are generally favorably impressed with the place. Taking everything into consideration, we think there is no other place in the State as well adapted for the State Capital as the city of Williamsport."

The store of D. A. Berkeypile, in East Conemaugh, was entered on Monday night by burglars and robbed of $125 worth of goods. No clue.

The Reading *Times and Dispatch* says: A father and son named Reese, residing near Port Union, this county, were returning from Reading in a sleigh last Saturday night, but very much intoxicated, when the horse, being blind, missed the bridge that crosses a run half a mile below Birdsboro, and upset the sleigh. The son was entirely helpless, but the father managed to get assistance from a house near by. The son was carried to the hotel of Mr. Heinrock, apparently frozen to death. Dr. Hallman was called in, and after using proper restoratives the young man began to show signs of life and is now in a fair way to recover.

The Meadville *Republican* says: A case of much interest to bankers was tried in our Court of Common Pleas last week. The facts appearing in the trial were as follows: Eugene L. Smith made a note, payable to John D. McFarland, or order. At the request of McFarland, Jesse A. Losee indorsed the note in blank; in other words, wrote his name across the back of the note. McFarland, the payee, negotiated the note to Bissell & Co., bankers, of Petroleum Center, and made the transfer by writing his name across the note below the name of Losee. The note fell due and was protested for non-payment. *After* protest, the bank wishing the note indorsed differently, had McFarland write his name across the back of the note, *above* that of Losee. The bank brought suit against Losee on the note. The defense was, that the indorsement of the name in blank, by Losee, simply made him a second indorser, to be *preceded* by McFarland, as payee of the note, and that being indorsed by the payee *below* Losee, it was irregular commercial paper, and the bank took it with enough upon its face to put them upon their guard. The verdict was for the defendant.

A handsome waiter girl in a St. Louis hotel, whose reputation is unsullied, was insulted, the other day, while performing her duties in the dining room, by a man, a railroad enineer, who called her bad names. Proceeding to the kitchen, she procured a pan of hot dishwater, and returning to where the ruffian was seated at the table taking his supper, dashed the greasy fluid over his head and shoulders. The thoroughly drenched fellow arose, seized a chair and knocked the girl down with it, inflicting a severe wound on her head. He would have done her further injury had not the other girls in the room interfered. The affray created a decided sensation among the boarders, who express regret that the water was not hot enough to scald.

A man in Clinton, Massachusetts, has a dog whose extraordinary wisdom is thus evinced: While getting his forenoon lunch from a neighbor's pail of "odds and ends," he upset the pail, which fell to pieces. Seeing the mischief he had done, he at once trotted home and took back a sound pail, which he substituted for the broken one, carefully transferring the contents of the old to the new, and as carefully covering his tracks by carrying off and hiding the staves of the disintegrated vessel.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, February 5, 1873.

REMARKS.—The extreme cold weather which has reigned supreme for some weeks has gone and left us, and a spring-like atmosphere now rules in its stead. The snow and ice have gradually melted away, causing the rivers to swell gradually, but as yet no fears of a flood are entertained. The markets show little change in prices, dealers reporting a slight change for the better.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bushels	9,500	6,105	15,614
Apples, barrels	863	784	1,647
Cheese, boxes	189	262	451
Corn, sacks	3,389	3,794	7,183
Wheat, sacks	6,311	6,948	12,259
Barley, sacks	7,579	7,301	14,880
Rye, sacks	1,285	890	2,175
Oats, sacks	13,742	7,878	20,620
Butter, packages	347	285	632
Bacon, pieces	7,055	11,150	18,205
Bacon, tierces	332	194	576

JANUARY RECEIPTS FOR PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
Flour, bbls	33,988	16,161	28,961	17,686	28,200
Apples, bbls	3,350	2,781	3,967	6,352	4,431
Cheese, boxes	211	424	1,984	1,795	1,784
Corn, sacks	24,996	16,276	23,319	27,262	19,151
Wheat, sacks	14,579	19,710	19,988	11,768	14,686
Barley, sacks	19,043	11,044	16,371	7,895	14,432
Rye, sacks	20,194	2,819	3,331	6,787	2,816
Oats, sacks	43,248	12,480	14,800	21,039	23,858
Butter, packages	203	539	1732	1,446	1,311
Bacon, pieces	14,777	34,551	46,273	73,858	29,396
Bacon, tierces				676	307

Following are the wholesale rates, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Receipts 175 bbls. Sales choice cooking and eating at $1 90@2 50 per bbl.

APPLE BUTTER—Sales reported at 50@60c per gallon in small lots.

ALES—X @ ₩ bbl; XX, $10; India Ale, $11; Porter $12.

ASHES—Sales soda ash, common, favorite brands for window glass makers' use, at 4½@4½c; refined, for first quality of kegs and bbls, 5½@5¾c; pearls, 11c; arsenic, 3¾@3¾c; nitrate soda, 4¾@5c; black lead, 65.

BUTTER—Receipts 24 packages. Sales of prime to choice roll at 26@28c per ₩; medium to good 18@ 25c; common 9@18c.

BEANS—The demand for choice white navy continues fair, with sales at $2 50@2 75 ₩ bbl.

BAKER'S CHOCOLATE—Jobbing way at 33@35c ₩ pound.

BAKING POWDER—Banner Baking Powder, 1 lb cans, ₩ dozen $6 00; ½ lb cans $3 25; ¼ lb cans $1 75.

BROOM CORN—Prices nominally 4¾@7c, as to quality and condition.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—We make some slight changes in the following prices and are told that in Germany, and it is not believed that the holders of these will exchange them for the new fives, but that they will prefer to have them redeemed and reinvest in American railroad bonds, which bear a higher rate of interest than the new fives. Should this be the case the funding operation will practically transfer a great deal of new European capital to this country.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by George I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

February 5, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
5-20's	113½	113½	113½	113½	113½	113¾
5-10's		89¾	89¾	90¾	91¾	89¾
Western Union Tel		89¾	89¾	90¾	91¾	89¾
Pacific Mail	72¾	72¾	72¾	73¾		73¾
Adams Express						
Wells, Fargo Express				84		
American Express		68		72		72
United States Express	73¾	73¾	73¾	74¾		74¾
New York Central	96¾	96¾	96¾	97¾	97¾	97¾
Michigan Central						
Michigan Southern	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾
Illinois Central	139					
Cleveland and Pittsb'h		91		91		
Chicago and Northwest			92	92		
Do preferred	92	92	92	92		
Rock Island	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾
St. Paul	54	54	54	54	54	54
Do Preferred						
Fort Wayne				92¾		
Ohio and Mississippi		28¾	28¾	28¾	28¾	28¾
Union Pacific	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾
Chicago and Alton						
Do preferred						
Boston, Hartford & Erie		9¾		9		9¾
Harlem					118¾	
New Jersey Central						
C. C. & I. C.		93¾		94¾		93¾
Atlantic Mail Stock	47¾		47¾		48¾	
Iron Mountain						

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114¼	114¼
U. S. Bonds of 1864	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	115¼	115¼
U. S. Bonds of 1865, new	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1861	116¾	116¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	116¾	116¾
6-20's	114¾	114¾
New 5s	113¾	113¾
10-40's	113¾	113¾
Currency 6s	118	118½

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	113¾
United States 6s of 1881	113¾
United States 5-20s of 1862	114¼
United States 5-20s of 1864	114¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	115¼
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	114¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	116¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	116¾
Currency Facilts	115

—The gold deposits at the United States Mint during the month of January were $1,152,574 80, and silver deposits at Philadelphia, $44,000. Total, $2,466,394 47. The gold coinage for the month amounted to $2,324,400, exclusive of $1,849 92 of fine bars; the silver coinage was $276,593, exclusive of $2,566 of fine bars. Minor coinage of 3 cent pieces, $40,210, and bronze coinage of 1 cent pieces, $12,000. The total of pieces coined is 2,661,136, or the value of $2,653,765. The *gold coinage* is the largest in value for any single month since November, 1861, and the coinage for the month was represented by pieces (including gold, silver and bronze), as the largest, with the exception of last month, ever coined in the mint.

—Messrs. J. Cooke & Co., financial agents of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, report that there is a good demand for the First Mortgage 7-30 gold bonds of the road, and that the sales since the first of January amounted to nearly $1,500,000.

—The annual report of the Railroad Commissioners of Massachusetts is nearly ready. On September 30, 1872, the report says, the roads reporting to the commissioners had 1,194 44 miles of main line and branches, and 2,852 52-80 of sidings, and 524 13 of double track, equivalent in all to 3,253 417 of single tracks. Of this amount 1,667 87 miles were in this State, or one mile of railroad to 980 707-1000 square miles of territory, or to every 879 inhabitants. This proportion as regards square miles is greater than anywhere else in America, and not exceeded by the average of any country of Europe. The average cost of the roads has been $51,250 a mile exclusive of equipment, which has amounted to $6,826 a mile. The average cost of the Boston & Albany road is about $90,000. The entire amount directly invested in the roads reported to the board is, in round numbers, $128,000,000, represented by $81,000,000 of stock and $54,000,000 of debt. Of the fifty-five corporations using the returns, thirty-one paid dividends, ranging between 2 and 10 per cent., and averaging on the entire capital of all the roads represented by stock, 6 97 100 per cent. Nine corporations declared no per cent, two divided 9, three divided 8, three divided 7, six divided 6, one divided 5, one divided 6, and twenty-two made no dividends. The gross income of the roads during the year was 22 810 per cent., or their entire cost, and the net earnings 9 43 100 per cent. of their gross earning, leaving an average net income of 6 5-10 per cent. on investment.

—Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn'a Central	68¾	Phila. and Erie	27¾
Reading	87	Lehigh Valley	57¾
United Co.'s of N.J.	121	Pittsburgh Ste	72
Oil Creek & A. V. R.	24½	A. V. R.R.	91
Lehigh Valley R. R.	60¾	Central Transport'n	45¾

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 6, 1873.

REMARKS.—The crude market for the past week has undergone no quotable change in prices, although the feeling was stronger. Parkers is held at $2 00a 2 12 per barrel spot; here $5¾a5¾ per gallon. We did not learn of any transactions. For prices of other points in the Oil Regions see dispatches.

REFINED.

The market was entirely devoid of animation; for large lots of standard brands 16a16½c; for car load lots fairly was wanted. Buyers appear to have assented themselves.

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, February 5.—The *Herald* says: The market was firm at previous quotations. Little oil is offering and transactions are limited. Upper country holders are firm, while lower holders hold at 17a17¾

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1873.

ONE OF the particular needs of the country is a general system of criminal, police and prison economy. As a means to the accomplishment of this end, the National Prison Reform Association has memorialized Congress for assistance in procuring statistics of crime and its causes throughout the United States, in order that the effects of certain laws and their administration, and of the comparative advantages of the various methods of criminal management now in operation, may be properly weighed and understood. It is to be hoped the assistance asked for may be promptly accorded. How to whip the offending Adam out of the criminal, and at the same time woo into more vital existence and activity the better instincts of the man, is the grave and solemn problem which our civilization is called upon to solve. Let every one try to help in it.

CENTRAL AFRICA can hardly remain much longer an unknown land. Dr. LIVINGSTONE in improved health and provided with the guard and the supplies sent to him from the coast by Mr. STANLEY, is now known to have set off on another journey for the completion of his explorations. Though European geographers do not expect him to identify the Lualaba with the Nile, they do expect that his journey will throw a flood of light on the headwaters of the Congo. And in Germany an association has been lately formed for the purpose of aiding in the exploration of the upper regions of that river—that is, of the unknown regions of Central Africa. The letters brought by STANLEY from LIVINGSTONE have awakened a more intense interest, if that be possible, among German geographers and naturalists than among the same classes in Great Britain. It is, however, only just to say that before LIVINGSTONE was last brought to light, a considerable number of Germans were busy, some in exploring and others in aiding to explore Equatorial Africa. In the formation of the association to which we have referred, all the important geographical and natural history societies of the country appear to have combined through their presidents, and there is a fair prospect of procuring sufficient funds to enable the association to send out expeditions of discovery furnished with all the means and appliances necessary to success. The merchants, especially those in the Hanseatic cities, concerned more or less in the African trade, have been called on for aid, and a liberal response is expected. In England, also, the certainty apparently established by LIVINGSTONE'S reports that, if the internal slave trade were abolished, Europeans might have a brisk and lucrative traffic in various products with Central Africa, has greatly quickened the interest with which the mercantile classes regard the exploration of the country. It is understood that the West coast, near the mouth of the Congo river, will be the point of departure of the German expeditions now in preparation.

PEOPLE who live east of the Rocky Mountains often entertain rather vague notions concerning mines and miners in California. The adventurers of '49 have likely been vividly brought before the general public, and part of the interest with which the narrative was listened to was due to the prevalent belief that the condition of things therein described belongs completely to the past. But so far as mines and miners formed essential features in the old scenes, it is interesting to know to what they have given place. According to the San Francisco correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, mining in California has been pretty well divested not only of its romantic character, but of all those elements which formerly made the work attractive to the adventurous spirits who could not live without excitement and were never able with exactness to distinguish between business and gambling. Vast mining is prosecuted in California with energy and success. Miners who were drawn away by the reports of gold on Frazer river, in Oregon, Montana and Idaho, have returned within the last year to their old grounds in California. But in order to carry on the business with good results in these old fields, it was soon discovered that more capital was needed than single persons possessed, and hence companies were formed. Foreign capital has been thus applied, especially by English companies, and their operations are conducted on so grand a scale that some of them employ as many as three hundred laborers. Mining life has thus assumed a solid, permanent character. Having ceased to be a dream of fortune and Sesame-like still to be discovered, and turning a deaf ear to flying reports, the miners have established their homes in the California mountains, where they intend to spend the rest of their days. "The original 'prospectors' have vanished," says the *Abendpost*, "the *miner no longer bakes his historical* 'slapjacks' at the traditional camp-fire, or cooks his pork and beans, but he either lives with his family or in a well appointed hotel. He is a more moral man than formerly, a condition to which the presence of women has contributed more than anything else."

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

In the Constitutional Convention full and decided expression has been already given to the dissatisfaction prevalent among the people with the part of our judicial system administered by Justices of the Peace. This was expected, as the petty courts referred to, in the cities especially, where their presiding jurists commonly bear the dignified and imposing title of Alderman, have opened a grievance good cause and well nigh intolerable. Persons not careful in the use of terms have even been known to designate the evil as a nuisance. In the discussion to which the opportunity of remodeling these courts has given rise, their history and development as well as their defects have been clearly set forth, and the knowledge thus brought to bear upon the subject can hardly fail to result in the good fruit of practical reform.

In the early days of the Commonwealth, with its limited and scattered population, "the squire" was a most useful, indeed an indispensable functionary. Society was still in a relatively primitive condition; the people were simple minded, honest, disposed to be just, and their commercial and industrial relations were for the most part plain and wholly destitute of embarrassing complication or entanglement. Above all things, they desired cheap and speedy justice, and the squire was precisely the man to give them that invaluable boon. Every member of the community was known to all the others, and almost universally the person invested with the office of Justice of the Peace was the man whose natural and acquired qualifications were such as to recommend him to his neighbors as the right man for the position. In general knowledge he was often superior to his neighbors; his common sense and shrewdness were generally conceded, and he was believed to be a lover of peace as well as of justice. Hence, however defective might be his acquaintance with law, the results of his official activity were upon the whole beneficent in all directions. Even when legally wrong his decisions frequently admitted of defense upon grounds deemed tenable by average minds, and when they did not, the failure was not in human compensated by the evident purpose of the judge to do justice between man and man. Instead of promoting litigation, his labors strongly tended to prevent or diminish it.

Such is believed to have been formerly to a great extent the character of the rural and village squires. And even at the present time, in country neighborhoods and small towns the Justice of the Peace may still be fairly represented as a valuable functionary who performs the duties of his office to the public satisfaction. At least this is the testimony of persons who may be supposed to know the truth. In the villages and in the rural districts men of high character for honesty and love of peace, and of intelligence equal if not superior to that of their neighbors, are still willing to accept the office, and, as in villages and rural districts, the people not only feel the importance of the office but are able really to ascertain the fitness or the unfitness of the candidates, the result is for the most part a judicious selection.

But in the great cities the case is very different. There the office possesses slight attractions for men really qualified for its responsible duties, as the number of incumbents is so great as to reduce the strictly legal gains of each of them to a rather insignificant total. On the other hand, the office is often eagerly desired by men conscious of no scruples which would prevent them from eking out deficiencies by irregular practices. Citizens also, often unjustly taking it for granted that the aspirants are all equally unworthy, either think it enough not to vote at all, or vote at random, without seeking to use their opportunity for the correction of a most serious abuse. The consequence is, as remarked by the *Freiheits Freund* (following substantially the representation of Mr. HENRY C. LEA, of Philadelphia), that venal, rude and unprincipled men are placed in an office which serves them merely to make as much money as possible, without care in what way it is gained. And to such men, adds the *Freund*, is committed almost despotic and irresponsible power over the poor, the helpless and the unprotected! Verily, if the amount of misery which is directly caused by these petty courts could be exposed to view, it would seem derision of the Christian community which tolerates such doings.

It is not only in our own State that the evils of this system have been long apparent and a subject of complaint. As pointed out by the contemporary already quoted, the Constitution of Illinois provides that in Chicago all Justices of the Peace shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the State Senate and on the recommendation of the Judges of the higher Courts. They are besides appointed for only four years, and for malfeasance in office may be summarily discharged by the Superior Courts to whom their evil doings become known.

In the Constitutional Convention the discussion and regulation of the subject will be watched with especial interest, and a reform which shall provide in all our large cities Justices of the Peace, duly qualified by learning and character, even though the new system should be more costly than the present one, would be so great a benefit to the poorer classes, and indeed to all, as by itself to render the Convention a benefactor of the State.

LEGISLATORS AND LEGISLATION.

The discussions in the Constitutional Convention on the subject of Legislators and Legislation have developed, on the part of the members of that body, not only a very general distrust of the class of men who fill up the Legislature, but a strong inclination to characterize them by all the vile epithets in the vocabulary. The reader of the debates in that Convention, who does not stop to look further and hear more before passing judgment, must rise from their perusal with the conviction that every man who holds a seat in the legislative body is, *prima facia*, a scoundrel and villain.

The remedy which the Convention has devised for the alleged prevalent corruption in legislation is biennial sessions. We have thus got the whole matter reduced to a demonstration. If the Legislature is chosen annually, it will be and must be corrupt; if it is chosen biennially, it must just as surely be pure and incorruptible. What a fortunate thing it is that, in spite of all the villany that has crept into our legislation, we have a body of exalted patriots in the Convention who can put a stop to it, and who have thus been able to devise a remedy for it! Pennsylvania must have gone to certain destruction if she had not stumbled on the 133's tatesmen whom she had gathered into the Spruce Street Presbyterian church.

But, seriously speaking, one of the main reasons why we have not better men in the Legislature, or rather why the best men in the State refuse to go into that body, and so elevate its character, is to be found in the indiscriminate, and therefore unjust, abuse which is so constantly and so generally heaped upon all legislators alike. The members of the Constitutional Convention have indulged in this abusive spirit to the full, and we therefore feel justified in illustrating our argument by referring to them.

We say, then, that the really good men of the State have been kept out of the Legislature by the conviction that, no matter how honestly or purely they might conduct themselves, if elected to it, they would be sure to be held up to public scorn and contempt simply because they were legislators. Men with sensitive natures shrink from the infliction of such abuse, and they know it is sure to come. Constant indulgence in this kind of villification on the part of many public men and many leading newspapers, has so blackened the name of legislator that now it is impossible to induce the men who should be there to occupy the place, and as a consequence both parties find themselves very much restricted in the material they have to choose from in making nominations.

The remedy for corrupt legislation is not to be found in denouncing every legislator as corrupt, but in judging public men justly. It lies in elevating the legislative office, not in debasing it. When once the able and worthy men of the State can feel that they will be fairly dealt with and honestly judged, they will be willing to help redeem the office of Legislator from reproach by consenting to serve in it, and not till then. The members of the Constitutional Convention have much better engaged in attending to its legitimate work instead of lending themselves to the voluntary task of defaming men as good as themselves.

For it is to be kept in mind by these men that it is to the Legislature we owe the Convention. They would have no existence before the public but for the Legislature. The law under which the Convention has assembled was passed by the Legislature, and the same legislature which has been thrown into the shade by the splendor of the one elected by the other. Is the creature better than the creator? If the Legislature is so inherently and irredeemably bad, how was it able to call into being a body of pure men to purify it from its guilt? Do we gather grapes from thorns or figs of thistles? And if so pure, and immaculate, and fir-sighted a Convention has sprung from the Legislature, may we not conclude that the source is as pure as the stream? Good does not flow from evil, nor sweet water from a bitter fountain.

We have not much faith, as our readers know, in remedies already devised by this Convention, and any hope of better things hereafter lies almost exclusively in the growth among the people of a more candid and firm spirit in judging the acts of public men. If we are ever to get our best men to consent to serve in the halls of legislation we must make them feel that they will not be misjudged and traduced, and classified indiscriminately with the bad few who may happen to hold the same office in place. Blasting as such sweeping charges for legislative corruption may have some occult power to work out our redemption; but our hope is built on the faith that when the legislative office is made honorable, and no *till* then, will honorable men be found in great abundance to fill it. To make it seem dishonorable, as the members of the Constitutional Convention have been doing, is to continue indefinitely the evil they complain of.

THE sympathies of the entire nation will be with Mr. COLFAX if, as he alleges, he has been made the victim of the crafty AMES, who has wound around him a web of *apparent* criminating evidence. We say apparent, because the testimony of Mr. COLFAX so many is now seemingly ready to condemn the Vice President is by no means conclusive.

To understand this case thoroughly, let the facts already proved be borne in mind. Mr. AMES says he sold stock in the Credit Mobilier to Mr. COLFAX, and the latter declares that he refused to take it, or have anything to do with it. AMES says he drew a check for $1,200 in favor of COLFAX on the 20th of June, 1868, payable to "S. C.," as dividends on this stock; and COLFAX avers solemnly that he never received it or made use of it. And now AMES brings in the books of the bank in which COLFAX keeps his account, to prove that on the 22d of June, two days after the date of the check COLFAX denies having received, the sum of $1,200 in bank notes was deposited by the Vice President.

The sums are identical, and the dates very close together; and these two facts would go a good way in overwhelming the suspicion that AMES was right and COLFAX wrong in their several statements, were it not that COLFAX has the best reputation of the two for truth and integrity. It by no means follows that because these sums are identical and that the deposit followed close on the date of the check, that COLFAX received the money on that check. He distinctly and positively swears he did not, and his conviction is that he at that time received from another source the money he deposited on the 22d of June. He hopes to be able to prove this fact; and it is but fair to wait and give him the opportunity before passing judgment on him decisively.

If he does prove what he alleges, the tables will be turned on Mr. AMES completely, who will stand convicted of an attempt to blacken the good name of a pure and upright man; and if he does not, and he is unable to turn aside the suspicions that spring naturally out of the imperfect testimony so far developed, it will place Mr. COLFAX in a very unenviable position. It is his veracity, more than his integrity that is now in question, and our readers will join us in the earnest hope that he may be able to vindicate that, triumphantly. Until he has had a fair chance to do so, we shall not permit ourselves to doubt his innocence.

No matter what else this investigation may have developed, this one thing stands out clear and distinct above all, that OAKES AMES has covered himself with disgrace. If there was anything corrupt about the Credit Mobilier, he was the head and front of the corruption. His memory is a convenient one, and his testimony is given with sufficient equivocation to make it too doubtful for confidence and belief, unsupported by corroborative proof. If his hands were clean, we might believe him when he lifts them to heaven to attest his oath; but neither heaven nor earth will give credence to anything he has to say who holds up such dirty digits. If it comes to a naked question between COLFAX and AMES, we prefer to believe COLFAX, all the time.

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GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

There are now 20,000 men and 10,000 horses and oxen employed in the lumber regions of Maine.

A project has been started among the woolen manufacturers of Massachusetts in view of the low price of woolens and high price of wool, to stop 1,000 sets of machinery, each firm agreeing to run one-half time or stop one-half the productive capacity of their mills, and the agreement is not to become operative until 1,000 sets have been subscribed. Already 250 sets are represented by signatures, and the remaining 800 it is supposed can easily be obtained.

A Bridgeport, Connecticut, man who feared the small-pox refused to receive a telegraphic dispatch the other day because it came from Boston.

A mule fell through a defective bridge in St. Louis, last week, and after being suspended by the neck and legs for about half an hour, was extricated, and found to be only slightly injured.

The number of children put to hard work under the age of ten in New York is said to have become appalling, increasing, as it has done, rapidly during the last ten years, with the rise since the war in prices of both labor and the means of supporting life.

The Wilson Sewing Machine Company have started a newspaper at Cleveland on their own book. It is called *Wilson's Reflector*. Self-advertisement is only incidental, the bulk of its contents being a judicious variety of good reading matter.

Uncle Sam has bees enough to give us all a sting! There are two million bee hives in the United States. Every hive yields on an average a little over twenty-two pounds of honey. The average price at which honey is sold is twenty-five cents a pound. So that after paying for their own board, our bees present us with a revenue of over $8,800,000.

A physician in Louisville a day or two since cut from the hand of a young lady a piece of china about an inch square, which had been in the flesh of the lady's hand for over a year without causing any uneasiness or pain until recently. Its edges were sharp.

At a public meeting in a medical college in New York, the other evening, the President of the institution "kindly furnished a dissecting table for the use of the reporters." It must have had an inspiring effect on those enthusiastic young gentlemen.

A curious suit was last week begun in the Superior Court at Hartford, Conn., to recover $3,000 for the death of a child who died in 1870 from the effects of a cold, taken while on one of the boats of the Hartford and New York Steamboat Company. The plaintiff claims that there were no accommodations in the cabin or elsewhere, and that the consequent exposure was the cause of the death of the child.

The authorities of New York city did a good thing when they set a large number of the recently arrived Italian emigrants to work on the thorny thoroughfares of the city.

PERSONAL.

The death of Commodore Matthew F. Maury, the organizer of the United States Naval Observatory and Hydrographic office, the author of the famous wind charts, by which thousands of lives and millions of dollars have been saved, removes one of the foremost men from the ranks of American science. Rebel he became, but rebel he remained, a devoted and enthusiastic disciple—one whose name will be handed down to posterity as among the first of modern meteorological students of the nineteenth century.

The Hon. Oscar L. Shafter, of Townshend, Vermont, died recently at Florence, Italy. In former years he was a leading man in the Free-Soil party, and in 1854 was nominated for Lieutenant-Governor. He was in the Legislature in 1854, and soon afterward removed to California and was appointed one of the Supreme Court Judges in that State.

Captain Enoch Hale, of Newburyport, Mass., died on the 27th ult., aged seventy-nine years. He was of the seventh generation of Hales in America, and was a cousin of Nathan Hale in the same house in which his father was also born. The family is from Hertfordshire, in England, and can trace back their pedigree as far as about the year 1500. Captain Hale represented his district in the State Legislature for several years.

A man in Bangor, Iowa, deliberately sold his wife, one horse, and one bed and bedding for a suit of clothes, to another man, and compelled his wife to go with her new husband. The parties were arrested, and the wife, from fear, refused to testify against the miserable brute.

The *Anzeiger des Westens* draws this portrait of Missouri's new Senator: "Colonel Bogy is the most perfect petrifaction of a politician we have ever known. To move him from a single position which he has once taken up again is absolutely impossible. He is as completely rooted in the past as a weather-beaten tree stump. Every new thought makes him tremble, and behind every new idea he perceives the destruction of society."

The San Francisco *Bulletin* thus speaks of Mr. Jones, the Nevada Senator elect: "His popularity in Nevada is due to the belief that he is hostile to ring influences, which have in vain tried to defeat him. His presence in the Senate is expected to reinforce the number of those who are sure to support a democratic dictation and refuse to wear a collar of railroad iron."

At a meeting in the Medical College of Bellevue Hospital, New York city, on Friday evening, the medals endowed by James Gordon Bennett for the four members of the first department of that city who had the best two years distinguished themselves most in the preservation of human life, were presented to Charles I. Kelley, Thomas Henry, Thomas Hutchinson and Ambrose L. Christen. The medals are of gold, appropriately inscribed.

Horace F. Clark, Vanderbilt's son-in-law and right bower, was once one of the most eloquent lawyers of New York city. One day, being poor, he went into Vanderbilt's office and said, "Commodore Vanderbilt, I like your daughter, and she likes me. I want your consent to my marrying her!" "Ah!" said the old man cynically, "you want my money, do you?" Clark turned toward the door, and said "Oh, you and your money be ——" "Say! young fellow!" shouted Vanderbilt, "come back here, you can have her!" So he married the girl, went into Wall street, and is worth twelve to fifteen millions.

STATE POLITICS.

The Uniontown *Standard* says: Candidates before the Democratic primaries are already engaged in buttonholing the dear people. We hear of a formidable array of aspirants for the loaves and fishes. For the Legislature, Messrs. Alex. Hill, Dr. J. R. Patton, John Hague, H. L. Sparks, Porter S. Newmyer, David L. Walker, J. M. Oglevee, T. B. Schnatterly, Alex. Cochran and Hugh Gilmore are named as persons desirous of the Democratic nomination. For Treasurer, George Morrison, M. W. Franks, W. F. Bute, J. N. McDonald, John F. Murray, and James Dixon are said to be aspirants, while William D. Nixon, William H. Brooks, J. D. Stillwagon, David Eckert, William Campbell and Andrew Fairchild are willing to serve as Commissioner.

Singular Changes in Iron.

Professor Mayer gives some interesting statements—the result of careful and prolonged researches made by him—regarding the effect of magnetism on iron. He states that he has discovered, by means of the Sexton comparator, that rods of iron suffer a permanent elongation by magnetization of one fourth part and fifty millionths of an inch. English refined iron gives the maximum of this elongation, and scrap iron the minimum. Whether the current is gradually increased in intensity, or whether it is sent full charge at once, it produces the same degree of elongation. Prof. Mayer found in his experiments, that with one cell the elongation was 220 of June. He hopes to be able to prove this fact; and it is but fair to wait and give him the opportunity before passing judgment on him decisively.

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FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

New Year's Day Threatened With Extinction—Past and Present Etiquette—Young Ladies at Home and in Society—Toilettes.

As the season wanes great public balls begin to take the place of the private receptions, and entertainments which have occupied the day and part of the nights since winter commenced. There are certain balls for benevolent purposes with an extended list of lady patronesses which it is permitted people of society to attend, and, though the *grand dames* do not themselves make their appearance in their freshest toilettes, yet a vast number of people buy tickets or hire boxes at high rates, for the purpose of patronizing the great ladies and getting a nod, bow or smile in return. Some one says that "institutions" were invented to get rid of poor relations, but certainly the benevolent institutions of New York are largely used as a means of getting into "society." New-rich women, or the wives of rich men will pay a large sum to see their names in the list with Mrs. Jonathan Blue-blood or Mrs. David Sauerkraut. It is something to meet them on committees or at assemblages of the managerial force, or the directory, even if they are never invited to their homes, and all the same, the children obtain the *entree* into the charmed circle if the parents do not. The great charity ball is, however, very fine as a spectacle. The lady managers are part of the show—part of what people pay their ten dollars per ticket to see—and they know it, and of late years have accepted the situation to the extent of forming in line and opening the festivities with a march in procession round the floor of the Academy of Music. They are always accompanied by very high toned gentlemen in white kid gloves, who remain in the seclusion of boxes with male friends until the proper time arrives, when they descend to the floor, perform languidly the proper number of duty dances, and retire again to their boxes to examine and criticise through their pearl opera glasses the over dressed crowd who have come to puff and pant, and smell and swell, and drag after them enormously long trains for their amusement.

A FANCY DRESS BALL AND AN OLD-FASHIONED PARTY.

Few fancy dress balls have taken place this season, but there is a rumor of one on a grand scale, to be given by a lady who has a magnificent house for the purpose, which will probably be considered one of the events of this somewhat slow and sober winter. To this house a large conservatory is attached, and a music room—the latter a really grand saloon, with parqueterie floor and dome-like ceiling, which upon occasion does duty as a spacious ball room. This saloon communicates with the supper room by a wide, circular hallway, in the middle of which is a fountain, and the sides of which are to be lined with banks and stands of flowers. The mansion is, in fact, two houses turned into one, with an interior adapted to the largest social requirements. Among the dresses which it is decided must figure on the occasion the following are worth mentioning:

Twilight—Composed of graduated shades of gray tarletan, with flounces to the waist. Across the body a shade of the darkest shade fastened on the shoulder with a black bat. A light gray veil upon the head over the flowing hair studded with moths and other insects. A wand in the hand, with a black top and an owl perched upon it.

Forget Me Not consists of white tulle over blue crepe trimmed with garlands of pretty flowers. A wreath is also worn upon the head and a bouquet carried in the hand. A good gaslight blue is selected the effect of this dress is charming—otherwise it fails.

A rather tall, slender brunette with regular features has chosen the dress of Ceres. It is made of soft fine mull muslin, skirt and low tunic bordered with gold, and the latter held in white satin bands with gold clasps. The hair is arranged in a simple Grecian knot, a few ringlets only being allowed to fall upon the neck. A wreath of golden wheat, the ears arranging over the head, is carried over the bodice but folded down to the low waist and tied behind. A cap of white muslin like that which goes by the name of Charlotte Corday, a round crown bordered with lace and a broad green ribbon which falls in loops and ends at the back. Charlotte Corday is said to have been a dazzling fair beauty.

Two other dresses which will appear were very much admired at a masquerade given last year. One of these is *Bopeep*, the other the *Queen of Hearts*. It is quite true that fancy dress should be young and pretty. The first consists of a bright blue silk skirt (short) trimmed with black velvet; a black velvet pointed bodice laced with bright gold, and a white vest. A shepherdess hat of straw, trimmed with field flowers and a crook mounted with bunches of narrow, parti-colored ribbon. The *Haymaker* wears a short skirt of buff linen. A white linen chemise with short, puffed sleeves, black velvet braces with straps across front and back, and an apron of white linen trimmed with black velvet, and a wide hat of coarse, white straw trimmed with black velvet ribbons studded in front with daisies.

All these dresses are simple and easily arranged. Another—*Marie Antoinette at Trianon*—is more elaborate. It is composed of pale yellow silk, trimmed with pleated white muslin flounces. Over the skirt is worn a yellow silk polonaise cut high at the back, low in front, and with *antique* sleeves bordered with ruffles or Valenciennes lace. It is cut very long, is trimmed with ruffles of Valenciennes lace, and looped up at the sides with lace and tea-roses. Above the boddice, which is very low in front, there is a small gauze chemisette, tied with black velvet. Over the hair is worn a powdered wig, and drag after them enormously a powdered wig, and drag after them enormously long trains for their amusement.

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HOUSE JACKETS.

Jackets have re-established themselves so firmly in popular favor that they will be likely to find a tolerably long lease of life. They are convenient and useful, and that after all goes a long way, even in fashions. The sleeveless house jackets are particularly worthy of commendation, because the design as at present worn is pretty, becoming and adapted to the purpose. The favorite style is a plain, high body, cut in small basque points at the back and front. It is absolutely destitute of trimming, unless the piping at the edge is called so, and when made in velvet forms a handsome addition to a plain coat-sleeved dress of dark silk or cashmere. The plainness, in such circumstances, does not show, it must be understood, gives them their distinction. Trimmed with fringe or lace they look old, and if any garniture at all is required or permitted it is a simple line along the edge of silk and jet embroidery, or narrow galloons stitched on flat—but this last is only upon cloth. The neatest fit for a house jacket is the jacket suits with a little of the interest which they had begun to lose. The polonaise is by no means set aside. The fact that it is now made in fine yak, and even Bhadilly lace, is sufficient proof that it is considered an institution, for the present at least. The black lace polonaise, by the way, is charming over a high necked, coal-sleeved dress of any delicate *fade* or cameo tint. It is an excellent investment for a bride, because it can be put to so many uses.

CHARMING INDOOR TOILETTES

are made of light grey serge, cashmere and alpacca, with plain tunic or sleeveless jacket of blue all wool empress cloth, delaine or poult de soie. No fringe or hanging trimming is used upon these jackets or over-dresses; the edge is plainly finished with a piping of silk and the skirt is snugly caught up on one side only with straps, from which is suspended a square pocket of the same. These are either leather or metal contrivances for holding keys, scissors, and the like, put there for ornament not for use.

Unless, indeed, the wearers are skillful and industrious, as the daughters of a wealthy man, who was found recently, busily employed making over a bonnet.

"What makes you do that?" inquired the caller.

"Is it not well done?" asked the young lady, holding out the bonnet and stylish frame.

"Yes, it is certainly very handsome," admitted the friend, "but I would rather go without bonnets than bother my head making them over, especially if my father were as rich as yours."

"I dont see," rejoined the sensible girl, "why I should deprive myself of a pleasure because my father is rich. I like to do it, and the money I save I have use for. Besides my mother might not always be rich, or I might marry a poor man, and then it will be necessary for me to make my own bonnets, and you see it is not wholly a caprice. There is reason behind it.

JENNIE JUNE.

OHIO NEWS.

Thirteen Norwegians imported by an Akron Agency, arrived in Akron last week to perform domestic services in private families.

The Eastern Ohio Poultry Association will hold their first annual exhibition at Youngstown, February 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, and 18th. On the last day of the exhibition there will be an auction sale of stock.

On the 27th ult. Mr. Joseph Danscher, in the employ of Augustus Meister, in Benton township, Ottawa county, was killed while loading a saw log on to a sled, alone in the woods.

The superintendent of the Southern Lunatic Asylum at Dayton has been in Columbus, urging measures of relief for that institution. The building now contains 600 patients, and was built to accommodate 450.

Mrs. Silas Babcock, of Wayne, Ashtabula county, aged twenty-four, died, recently, from the effect of an overdose of hydrate of chloral administered by a physician at her own request, for the purpose of extracting teeth.

The mistake of a careless drug clerk in Chardon, Geauga county, in putting tartar emetic into a bottle of cream of tartar, resulted in the death of two small children of Mr. Thomas Childs.

A. B. Stockwell is the most dashing young speculator of the age, Col. Thomas A. Scott not excepted. From a simple farmer boy at Painesville, Ohio, he jumped into Wall street and made a million dollars by investments in the stock of the Pacific Mail Company, of which he is now President. He was lately elected President of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, and is also largely interested in the late Banana Bay purchase. He is cool and calculating, but has no Jim Fiskian airs.

Of the iron works in that place the Youngstown *Vindicator* says: Brown, Bonnel & Co's mills are all running again; likewise one of their furnaces. Coal shipped from Pittsburgh. Cartwright, McCurdy & Co., have restarted their mill at half capacity. Coal shipped from Pittsburgh. The Youngstown Company's mills has not yet ceased to run. Where they get their coal supply we are not advised. The Valley mill is running, now, simply the puddling department. It proposes to be in full blast in a few days. Two of the Himrod furnaces are running; also, the Girard, Lowellville and one of the Mineral Ridge furnaces are running. The furnace and mill at Warren, are running, and all the mills at Niles are in full blast—some of the latter at less than full capacity. The New Lisbon mines are furnishing a good share of the coal being used in the mills and furnaces named.

A man named, Matthew Wesson, froze to death at Milport, Pickaway county, on Tuesday night last, when within a few feet of his daughter's house.

The New Lisbon *Journal* says that a rumor is current that a four foot vein of black band iron ore has been discovered somewhere on the Little Beaver creek, near Smith's Ferry, and that in consequence a company is to be organized to develop the mine and start a rolling mill either at Georgetown or Smith's Ferry.

The Defiance *Democrat* says that in digging a well on the farm of J. E. Wellmen, Highland township, after boring over one hundred feet a strong vein was struck, sending up to within ten feet of the top an abundant supply of the best water. What is remarkable is, that fish, similar to those found in Bryan wells, came to the surface—sightless, yet alive, bright, shining little fellows, from four to six inches in length.

The Toledo *Blade* says: Lobby prices are said to be low at Columbus this winter. A gentleman who has been down there from one of the interior counties, informs us that "young and gushing" lobbyists can be secured at $10 per head for a single measure, while old stagers grab eagerly at $25.

The expenses of the last Ashtabula county agricultural fair were $858 31; receipts $868 64.

Considerable excitement has been occasioned at Cuyahoga Falls by the arrest of George Rice, town clerk, for embezzlement, on the strength of a discovery that he had received $1,300 for which he had failed to give the town credit. Suspicion was first directed to him by the curious circumstances of his recent failure (he was a merchant in the village), he owing several thousand dollars to the laboring class of Cuyahoga Falls, among other people, and pretending to an inability to give any definite account of his financial condition. Rice has been released on bail.

A few days since Jonathan Shafer, of Cass township, Hancock county, while chopping wood, accidently fell upon his ax, cutting a fearful gash in his hip, and making a severe and painful wound.

A stranger, named unknown, was brutally murdered near Shawee, Perry county, about dark on Monday evening, by a man named Thomas Stokle. The murderer made his escape and the officers have failed to ascertain his whereabouts.

The Ninety-Eighth Ohio Volunteers propose to have a re-union of the surviving members at an early day at Steubenville.

The editor of the Massillon *American* must combine the vocation of undertaker with that of journalism. He says: "We buried fifty-nine people last year."

Columbiana county has fourteen thousand one hundred and fourteen children.

An unusal fatality visited the home of Mr. Isaac Shulenberger, of Milton township, Wayne county, recently. On Friday, the 10th inst., the youngest child died; on Saturday 11th, the mother died, and on Sunday, the 12th, the father died. All were buried in one grave on the Monday following. Eight children are left orphans by this sudden visitation of death.

STATE NEWS.

A two-year old son of Mr. Frederick Prinz, of Reading, was choked to death, on last Wednesday evening, by a grain of coffee.

There is a dearth of work in the car shops of the Reading Railroad, and one hundred carpenters are now out of employment.

Mrs. Michael Brennan, of Mill Creek, fell from a ladder, on Monday, and sustained injuries which caused her death on Wednesday.

The vestry of Grace Episcopal Church, Allentown, has extended a call to Rev. Charles E. McIlvain, son of Bishop McIlvain, of Ohio, to become its rector, and he will probably accept.

Mr. Hugh W. Ritchie is anxious to know the whereabouts of his son, Erastus R. Ritchie, who has been missing since November 4, 1872. He is large for his age—14 years old—over five feet high, has light blue eyes and dark-brown hair, and is of fair complexion. The last heard of him he was seen in company with some raftsmen, at Fite's Eddy, on the Susquehanna river. Information of his whereabouts will be thankfully received by Wm. Lee, Green P. O., Lancaster county, Pa.

The largest yield of railroad iron ever made at the rolling mill of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, Scranton, in one week, was 1,090 tons and 10 cwt., of 56 pound rails, making 12 207-528 miles of track.

"Wanted—a workhouse," is Erie's latest cry.

Westmoreland county will complete the first century of its existence on the 29th of next month.

The new planing mill in Altoona will go into operation in March.

The Chester *Republican* of Friday says: Dr. Elmer Worthington is still in a very precarious condition, and the strong hopes entertained by his many friends for his final recovery are now giving way to fear.

Third in the list of